

**Directory *of*
Monuments**
in Tamilnadu

DR. V. JEYARAJ

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MONUMENTS
IN TAMILNADU

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FOREWORD

Museums are vibrant both with internal and outreach activities. They are institutions that attract tourists and local community alike. Museums have to organize diverse and innovative programmes to sustain the flow of visitors to the museums. Museums disseminate information and knowledge on the art, culture and natural wealth of the region where they are located. As such visitors expect a lot from the museums. Museum personnel besides their routines, need to involve in doing research by undertaking field visits to different parts of the State and cater to the needs of the public. Government Museum, Chennai has endeavoured in many projects and the publications of the museum are most sought after in the scholarly world.

Monuments in Tamilnadu are large in number. They are being looked after by a host of organizations such as the Archaeological Survey of India, State Department of Archaeology, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Wakf Board, Christian organizations and trusts run by individuals and groups of people. There are many books on temples of Tamilnadu. Tourism department has published good number of literature on many temples and tourist spots. But there is no single book that brings out information about the monuments and laws pertaining to them.

Dr. V. Jeyaraj, Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory of the Government Museum, Chennai with his vast experience both in districts and Chennai has studied different monuments in this State and compiled information meticulously. This information will be useful to those who are keen to visit such monuments. His contribution to the field of conservation and museology is known and he has added to his credit this publication, the Directory of Monuments in Tamilnadu.

We believe that this book will prove as a handy guide to those interested in art, culture, architecture etc., of Tamilnadu as well as to the tourists who visit Tamilnadu.

Chennai-600 008,

23-3-2005.

(M.A. Siddique)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As a Curator of the Government Museum, Vellore from 1989 to 1992, I wanted to study various monuments in North Arcot District. Through my research, I was able to bring out two pamphlets on Monuments in North Arcot and Forts in North Arcot. Both of them were well received. Many research scholars used this literature for furthering their M. Phil. studies. In collaboration with the D. K. M. College, Vellore, I wanted to prepare a brochure on the Important Places in North Arcot and the same was prepared but could not be published. This interest created in me was ignited when the museum visitors asked information on the monuments in both Vellore and Thiruvannamalai districts.

Therefore, I sought the financial assistance from the Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum at New Delhi and I received a Small Study and Research Grant from the Nehru Trust and I finished the project within a year.

The Government of Tamilnadu allots funds for bringing new books and reprinting of old publications of the museum. In the financial year 2004-2005, my book on Directory of Monuments in Tamilnadu was considered for publication by the Director of Museums, Mr. M. A. Siddique, I.A.S. I thank him very much for bringing out this book as one of the museum publications.

I thank the Special Commissioner of Archaeology, Mr. T. S. Sridhar, I.A.S., for sparing information and photographs pertaining to the monuments protected by the State Department of Archaeology. I thank Dr. T. Satyamurthy, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai Circle, and Mr. K. T. Narasimhan, Superintending Archaeologist, Temple Survey Project, Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai for giving information and photographs of the monuments under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India. I should thank the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department for permitting me to study the temples and granting permission to photograph them. I also thank the Wakf Board, Chennai for sparing information on the Wakf Board. I thank the Director of Tourism Development Corporation, Government of Tamilnadu for the information and assistance offered for this book. I thank Dr. N. Devasahayam, former Deputy Director of Museums for all his guidance in this work.

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I cannot forget my staff, Mr. J. D. Jagannathan, Mr. B. Raja Balachandra Murugan, Mr. J. Kumaran in the Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory and Ms. Bessie Cecil, research scholar who were always helpful to me in writing this book.


I am thankful to all the technical and ministerial staff of the department of museums who helped me directly and indirectly to write this book. I thank Mr. S. Girija Sankar, Mr. G. Ramesh of the museums department and Mr. M.T. Sridharan of the Archaeology Department for their help in photography.

I thank my family members Mrs. S. R. Hepziba Jeyaraj and Ms. J. Christy Veda, for their valuable assistance through out the period and my son, Mr. J. Abraham Durairaj, especially for designing the wrapper and help in scanning pictures for the book. I thank Mr. Sundaram of M/s. Seawaves and staff for printing the book nicely.

Chennai - 600 008,

21-3-2005.

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21/3/2005
(V. Jeyaraj)

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The word monument is derived from the Latin word *monumentum*. Monument is a structure usually a building or statue, built in memory of a person or an event. National monuments are places of historic, scientific, or scenic interest set aside by a government as public property. It has always been customary in monarchies to erect monuments to kings or princes after their death. Such monuments do not qualify for inclusion in this chapter unless the king or prince created the nation or made it understand itself in the person of its creator. India preserves one of the world's great artistic traditions, a heritage of art, architecture and sculpture that go back more than thousand years. Unlike ancient civilisation such as those of China, Egypt, Greece or even Mexico, that of India is very much alive. Buddhist, Jain and Hindu temples are not merely archaeological monuments, they are actually places of worship, where carvings, murals, sculptures are objects of art. The continuity of religious traditions in India means that ancient shrines are still animated by their ritual and mythical context.

World Heritage Monuments

India is a grand repository of ancient cultural and natural treasures of exceptional value. In 1972, the General Conference of UNESCO adopted a resolution with overwhelming enthusiasm, creating thereby a 'Convention Concerning the Protection of this World Cultural and Natural Heritage'. The main objectives of this forum are to:

1. Define World Heritage in both cultural and natural aspects.
2. Enlist sites and monuments from the member countries, which are of exceptional interest and universal value, the protection of which is the concern of all mankind.
3. Promote co-operation among all nations and people to contribute for the protection of these universal treasures intact for future generations.

The list of recorded sites on the World Heritage now stands at 300, which include both cultural and natural wonders, an endowment that is shared by all mankind and the protection of which is the concern of the entire mankind. India is one of the active countries of the forum. There are over 300 World Heritage Monuments, Sites and Natural Sites among them India has twenty six monuments and four natural sites. Among these, Mamallapuram group of monuments and Brihadisvara temple, Thanjavur are examples of such monuments. The natural sites are Keoladeo National Park, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaziranga National Park and Sunderbans National Park.

Archaeological Survey of India is the premier organisation in the country, responsible for the preservation and protection of about 5000 monuments of national importance all over India.

Indian Laws Regarding Antiquities

India possesses thousands of monuments, which are worth preserving. The British rulers thought about their preservation. Many made a very good study on them and recorded. But up to the 18th century there was no legislation to preserve them. There was a beginning in the legislation regarding the preservation of structural vestiges of the past. The earliest attempt in this area was the passing of the Bengal Regulations XIX of 1810. In 1817 the Madras Regulations came into existence. These empowered the Government to intervene wherever private individuals faced a public building with the risks of misuse.

In 1863, when Lord Canning was the Governor General of India, the Act of 1863 was passed. According to this Act the Government was empowered to prevent injury to any preserved buildings remarkable for their antiquity or for their historical or architectural value.

In 1904, during the reign of Lord Curzon as Governor General of India, the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 was enacted by the Government of Bengal. It was to provide for the preservation of ancient monuments, for the exercise of control over traffic in antiquities and over excavation in certain places and for the protection and acquisition in certain cases of ancient monuments and of objects of archaeological, historical or artistic interest.

In 1921, in the Devolution Rules of 1921, archaeology was classified as a Central subject. According to this, all the protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 were brought under the control of the centre leaving the unprotected monuments under the protection of the Government of Provinces.

In 1932, when Earl Wellington was the Viceroy of India, amendments to the specific provisions of the Act 1904 came into effect. These amendments allowed the issue of license to outside, including foreign agencies for the excavation of protected areas and to regulate operations like mining, quarrying, blasting, and excavation at or near protected monuments.

In 1935, the Government of India Act, 1935 made archaeology a federal subject. As per this Act all powers related to the ancient and historical monuments, including archaeological sites and remains previously vested to the Provincial Governments were taken over by the Government of India.

In 1950, when the constitution of India was promulgated, the responsibilities between the centre and states as far as archaeology was concerned were given a good shape.

According to this, under the Union list, ancient and historical monuments and records, and archaeological sites and remains were declared by or under law by Parliament to be of national importance.

Under the State list, libraries and other similar institutions controlled or financed by the States; ancient and historical monuments and records other than those declared by or under law made by Parliament were declared to be of national importance.

Under the concurrent list, archaeological sites and remains other than those declared by or under law made by parliament to be of national importance.

In order to fulfil the provisions of the constitution, the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act, 1951 was enacted in November 28th, 1951. Under this all archaeological sites and remains declared under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 were re-declared as monuments and archaeological sites of national importance.

In 1958, with a view to bringing the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 into lines with the constitutional provisions and also to conform it with the new developments in the changed situation Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 was enacted on August 28th, 1958.

The ancient monument means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith, which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years, and includes i. The remains of an ancient monument, ii. The site of ancient monument, iii. Such portion of land adjoining the site of an ancient monument as may be required for fencing or covering in or otherwise preserving such monument, and iv. The means of access to, and convenient inspection of an ancient monument.

By the government order number 1836 Education, Public Health Department dated 7th September 1959, the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology was established. Institutions like the Archaeological Survey of India, Southern Circle, Chennai; Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Madras, Department of Epigraphy, Tamil University, Thanjavur and the State Archaeology Department, Tamil Nadu have carried out excavations at various regions in Tamil Nadu. Colleges like Government College of Arts and Science for Women, Mayiladuthurai, The H.H.Rajah's College, Pudukkottai and The Madras Christian College, Chennai-600 059 are also conducting archaeological courses and doing work related to the monuments.



Restoration of the Presidency College Building.
Courtesy: The Hindu, Chennai, Dated 4th July 2000.

Non-governmental organisation such as INTACH, Dakshinachitra are doing work related to preservation of monuments in Tamil Nadu. Public Works Department, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and private organisations are involved in the conservation of Heritage buildings in Tamil Nadu. Recently the Southern Railway administrative buildings, Vivekananda House, DGP Office etc., have been conserved. The Museum Theatre, compound wall of the Government Museum, Chennai were restored with

the help of the Archaeological Survey of India. The Danish Fort at Tranquebar which is under the control of the State Department of Archaeology was restored with the help of the Archaeological Survey of India. The Connemara Public Library, Chennai is being restored by the Archaeological Survey of India as a deposit work. The Senate Hall of the University of Madras is being restored by the INTACH with the help of various architects in this part of the country. The Santhome Church, Chennai was restored by M/s. Gundu Rao Associates. The Victoria Hall which is the National Art Gallery in the museum campus is going to be restored soon. The old museum buildings in the museum Campus are also being restored.

CHAPTER 2

MONUMENTS AND ARCHITECTURE

Classification of Monuments

The State of Tamil Nadu has thousands of monuments of over hundred years. But in this book the monuments, which are of interest to Indian and foreign tourists, are included. Some of the monuments are not even hundred years. Based on the utility point of view, the monuments included in this write up are classified as follows:

1. Temples
2. Mosques
3. Churches
4. Caves and Caverns
5. Forts
6. Palaces
7. Dams and Tanks
8. Tombs
9. Memorials
10. Natural Sites

Temples

Temple is a structure designed as a place of worship. Large, imposing Christian churches are sometimes called temples. In a broad sense, a temple is any shrine or meeting place. Temples have been built since ancient times, when they were often the major buildings of a civilisation. The temple was not a place of worship for large group of people, but a home and a treasure house for the god. In many cultures, only the priests entered the temple.

Temple Architecture

The art and science of designing and building structures is architecture. Its basic function is to provide shelter for man's various activities by enclosing space. A building that only provides shelter, however, is not a good example of architecture. It becomes architecture only when efficiency is combined with beauty.

Prehistoric Architecture

Early man had neither time nor skill to do more than meet the basic need for shelter. Some men found shelter in caves. Others built simple windbreaks or made crude huts of woven

reeds plastered with mud. As communities were established, man built large stone structures called megaliths, such as Stonehenge in England. Dolmens, megaliths thought to have served as tombs, consist of several upright stone slabs supporting a horizontal slab.

South Indian architecture has several distinct features such as *vimana*, standing on a square base. It is a high pyramidal tower obtained by super imposing diminishing storeys; *haras*-rows of miniature shrines, composed of *kutas* and *salas*. The other typical building of the South Indian temple complex is the *gopura* or temple gateway. Another essential part of the South India temple is the *prakara* or enclosure wall, sometimes simple but frequently with a series of cells attached to it. At times there are several of these *prakaras*-the shrine at Srirangam has seven.

The South Indian temple architecture can most conveniently be divided into five periods, which coincide with the ruling dynasties in South India. They are:

1. Pallava (550-900 AD)
2. Chola (900-1150 AD)
3. Pandya (1100-1350 AD)
4. Vijayanagara (1350-1565 AD)
5. Nayak (from 1565 AD onwards)

Pallava Period Temples

The Pallavas excavated rock-cut temples and *mandapas* and carved out monolithic *vimanas*. Some of the examples are the cave temples at Mahendravadi, Pillayarpatti, Panamalai, Thiruchirapalli etc. They also erected structural temples at their port town of Mamallapuram and in their capital at Kanchipuram. For these they used soft stones to carve out marvels



Five Rathas, Mamallapuram

but used hard stones such as granites as *adisthana* and for slabs. One of the Pallava kings, Rajasimha built at least five temples, three of them at Mamallapuram, viz. Olakkanesvara, Mukundanayanar and the Shore temple, the Talagirisvara temple at Panamalai, the Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram, the Vaikunthaperumal temple at Kanchipuram were constructed by Nandhivarman Pallavamalla (731-796 AD).

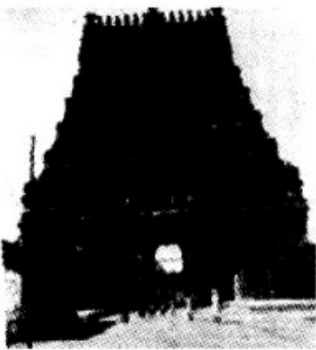
The Chola Period Temples

After the Pallavas, the Cholas flourished and during the reign of Raja Raja (985-1014 AD) and his son Rajendra (1012-1044 AD) the temple architecture and art reached their zenith due to their patronage. The Sundaresvara temple at Thirukattalai, built by Aditya I in 873 AD is a typical example of early Chola temple. The Vijayalaya Cholesvaram temple at Narthamalai, the Korangunatha at Srinivasanallur, built during the time of Parantaka I, the Brihadisvara temples at Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram are some of the best examples of Chola temple architecture.



Brihadisvara Temple, Tanjore

During the late Chola phase two temples were erected, the Airavatesvara temple at Darasuram built by Raja Raja II and the Kampaharesvara temple at Thirubuvanam built by Kulothunga III.



Eastern Side Gopura of the
Chidambaram Temple

The Pandya Period Temples

After the decline of the Cholas, the Pandyas gained their power in the south. Pandyas concentrated in the construction of vimanas and gopuras. A typical example from this period is the Sundara Pandya *gopura* added to the Jambukesvara temple around the middle of the thirteenth century. The *gopura* on the eastern side of the Chidambaram temple bears an inscription with the name of the Pandya ruler Sundara.

The Vijayanagar Period Temples

During the Vijayanagar rule, many places of worship arose than during the Chola rule in south India. They used very hard stones for the construction of temples. One of the main contributions of the Vijayanagar rulers were the tall massive *gopuras*, which were normally called as *Raya gopuras*, some times eleven storeys high as in the Ekambaranatha temple at Kanchipuram. The other contributions were multiple mandapas. The Vijayanagar temple complex contains a greater number of moderately sized buildings including mandapas, pillared halls, shrines and bathing tanks at fixed places around the central shrine dedicated to a god. The steps leading to the mandapa have sculptured ramps decorated with mythical animals of hybrid form.



Gopura of the
Ekambareswarar Temple,
Kanchipuram

The Nayak Period Temples

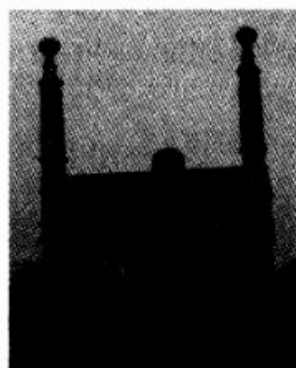
After the fall of the central power of the Vijayanagar rulers, the Vijayanagar viceroys, the Nayaks, in the southern regions assumed independent rule of Gingee, Thanjavur, Vellore and Madurai in Tamil Nadu. The Nayaks contributed much more to temple architecture than any body else in Tamil Nadu. The Nayaks further elaborated the mandapas of the hundred or thousand pillared type. During this period the *gopura* reached full development, as seen in the southern one of the Madurai Meenakshi Sundaresvarar temple. Srivilliputhur has the tallest *gopura*, with an even greater number of plastic stucco figures. Other valuable contributions of the Nayaks are the kalyana mandapas at Vellore and a similar one in the northern *prakara* of the Ranganatha temple at Srirangam.



Meenakshi Sundaresvar Temple, Madurai

The Indo-Islamic Architecture

With the Mohammedans came an entirely new shape, the dome, so that there was a change from the pyramidal to the ovoid and before long the characteristic architectural



Mosque, Arcot

feature of many of the cities and towns and even the villages was the white bulbous dome. The style of architecture thus developed has long been known as Saracenic, a designation which now being discarded. Such buildings were not the production of any particular people, as the Saracens, but were an expression of the religion of Islam as this manifested itself in India. They will therefore be usually referred to by more apposite title of Indo-Islamic. Indo-Islamic Architecture is a living proof of the synthesis and fusion of what was best in the building traditions of two contrasting cultures, the Indian and Islamic.

Mosque is a Muslim house of prayer. Mosques range from simple, unadorned buildings to huge, imposing structures. They may be richly decorated with carving and mosaics work or have plain white washed walls. All mosques how ever have basically the same form.

The exterior of a mosque generally is rectangular in out line. Roofed arcades or colonnades surround an open interior court with a fountain for religious observances. A dome usually covers the fountain. One inside wall of the building, called the *gibla* contains the *mihrab*, or prayer niche. The orientation is such that when the worshiper offers his prayers at the *Mihrab*, he faces Mecca too. It is placed so that the face toward Mecca. Next to the *mihrab* is the *minbar* or *mimbar* (Pulpit). A minaret, or tower, at a corner of the mosque has one or more balconies from which the *muezzin* (Crier) calls the faithful to prayer. Worshippers remove their shoes before entering a mosque. Usually women are expected

to pray at home. When they do enter the mosque, they are kept apart from men. A mosque which maintains a theological school, is called a *madrasah*. The tomb-mosque, or mausoleum, is often used for private worship.

The Mughals who invaded India were the Arabs, Turks, Afghans etc. Their coming to India made many changes in the architecture. The Islamic style of architecture was not completely new. When they captured a city, they were able to construct a mosque in the city with the help of the artisans of the place. Therefore the style had some influence of the local artisans. The buildings, which were constructed by the Mughals, are palaces, *dargahs*, mosques etc. Every mosque is similar to that at Mecca.

The Mughal tomb architecture in India developed parallel with that of the mosque. The tomb consists normally of a square building with one chamber standing on a raised platform and a dome over it. In the centre of the square building stands the cenotaph. The tombs of Muslim saints are often surrounded by mosques, pilgrim halls and other tombs, forming a *dargah*. There are many mosques and *dargahs* in Tamil Nadu.

Church Architecture

Church in architecture is a building set-aside for Christian worship. The word church in Greek means belonging to the Almighty. It is intended not only to shelter worshippers, but also to arouse a feeling of reverence. Churches range from simple, unornamented buildings to huge monumental structures decorated with priceless art treasures. Often a church is part of a group of buildings that may include meeting rooms, a school, offices and living quarters for the clergies or ministers.

Gothic is the culmination of the ideals and artistic forms of medieval Christian art. Its cradle is in the heart of France. The name Gothic was given to the style by the late Renaissance critics, as a term of contempt, denoting barbaric, because it did not conform to the classical ideals, which were the only ones they accepted.

The interior design of a church depends on the religious denomination that it serves. Most Protestant groups stress simplicity, while Roman Catholic and Anglican churches are more elaborately decorated. However, there is often wide variation among churches of the same denominations.

The Parts of a Church

The *Sanctuary*, the *Choir* and the *Nave* are the three parts of a church. The sanctuary is the part of the church that contains the altar. It is a raised platform separated from the rest of the church by the communion, or altar, rail. During the mass and most other worship services, the clergy officiates in the sanctuary. The altar is a table on which the sacrament

of the Lord's supper is offered. The pulpit from which the clergy preaches is usually in the sanctuary in the Roman Catholic Churches. The Choir is the part of the church set aside for a group of singers. It contains stalls for the singers, the organ console and the organ pipe. The Nave is the body of the church, the part occupied by the congregation. Vestry, vestibules in the entrance, baptismal font are also located in the Nave.

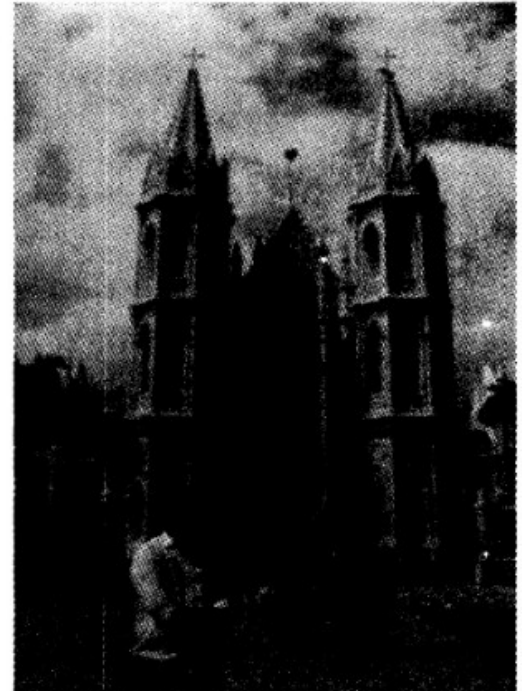
Decorations and Symbols

Stained glass windows were used in the early periods. They often portray Biblical scenes or depict incidents in the lives of the saints. The most prominent Christian symbol in a church is the cross or the crucifix. It is displayed not only on the altar, but also in many other parts of the church as well. Even the plan of the building may be in the form of a cross. Other symbols frequently used include the lamb, representing Jesus; and the dove, the symbol of the Holy Ghost. Biblical quotations may decorate the walls, and related paintings adorn the walls and ceilings.

The Hebrew temple of Jerusalem was sacred to both the Jews and the early Christians. After the Romans destroyed the temple at Jerusalem, a similar church was constructed. Its main divisions were the Holy of Holies, in which the Ark of the Covenant was kept, an altar for burnt offerings, and a body (Nave). The church was designed after the temple, with the chancel containing the sanctum on an altar for the officiating priest and his assistant and the nave for the congregation. East or west, these are the basic conventional divisions of the church, and only the details differ.

The Portuguese introduced Gothic and Baroque architecture into India, while, during the British period, colonial forms of practically all European and American styles in church building came into vogue in the country, and purely Indian styles were also adopted. No style, however, completely superseded others, and Indian churches, like the complex cultural pattern of the sub-continent, show a variety in style and taste seldom found in other countries.

The first European church in India was built by the Franciscans in Cochin in 1510 AD. The Portuguese introduced many innovations in the Syrian churches when they took over the Kerala church. The churches and altarpieces were ornamented. Stained glass windows



Shrine Vailanganni, Nagappattinam District

were installed in churches that could afford them. Images of saints were made to adorn niches, ceilings. Walls were painted with religious themes and pulpits were erected. The paintings were generally in the style of the European masters, whom Indian artists studied. Images were usually made of wood and painted, since granite, because of its dark colour and associations with Hindu art, did not find favour with the Portuguese, and marble was costly.

Of church architectural designs introduced into India during the European period, the cross-shaped plan became increasingly popular, especially in places where large congregations had to be accommodated. Apart from the obvious symbolism of the cross, the plan was more suited for better visibility of the altar from all points in the church. There was also sufficient space in the transepts for additional altars, if need arose, for holding services simultaneously by several priests, on important occasions like Christmas. Aisles flank the nave. In the bigger churches, the transept was used by men and the nave by women. In the cross-shaped plan, the vestry is generally behind the altar at the apse with a door at either side leading to the chancel. A dome at the centre of the transept rises over the roof, and at the entrance, on each side is a tower, which serves as belfry.

Modern Trends

In the beginning, Christian architects were hostile to Indian styles in art and architecture, particularly in church building. During the British period, especially by the beginning of the 20th Century, there was a marked change in this attitude, in favour of Indian art and architecture. Increasing interest in Indian styles began to be evinced not only by Indians but by foreign missionaries as well. The modern Dornakal Cathedral of the Church of South India, in Andhra Pradesh, and the Christu Kula Ashram Chapel at Tiruppattur in Vellore district are remarkable for the new trend in Church-building.

Many Indian painters have taken up Christian religious themes and we often come across pictures of Christ in the style of the Ajantan Bothisatva, of the Virgin Mary emerging from the lotus, and in other familiar styles of Indian



Christukula Ashram Church,
Tiruppattur

religious art. Some of these artists have done remarkably well in the mural decorations of Indian Churches. All these attempts are, however, in an experimental stage, and a distinct style of painting, which may be called Christian, is yet to be evolved.

The most important and historic Roman Catholic shrine in India is St. Thomas Mount, Chennai, the traditional site of the Apostle Thomas. When the Portuguese took over the site in the sixteenth century, they found no churches here but only ruins. Among the ruins, however, they discovered the tomb of the Apostle. The relics were exhumed, and some of them are now housed in the present San Thome Cathedral, Mylapore, Chennai. This church was the replacement of the old church built in 1523 AD. It was constructed in 1896 AD. The tower is 50 metres high. The back wall of the sanctuary has a large 3-paneled window of stained glass. The three panels contain representations of St. Thomas and other Apostles, the former placing his finger into the wound in Christ's belly side. This Church was constructed and restored in 2004.

Church buildings by Protestants in India had humble beginnings. Protestant churches in Tamil Nadu were built either by pious individuals or impecunious missionaries who had to support them and their congregations from meagre funds. St. Mary's Church, Chennai, the first church in India was built in 1690 mainly by the munificence of Elihu Yale

Palaces

Palace is an official residence of a sovereign, archbishop, or bishop or any splendid or large house. In the earlier times, the kings used the common halls in the temples as the trial court or the meeting places while the kings visited the area. In the Nayaks' period large palaces were constructed and many such palaces are in existence in Tamil Nadu. Some of the palaces in Tamil Nadu, which are worth mentioning, are, Thirumalai Nayak Mahal (Madurai), Padmanabhapuram Palace (Kanyakumari), Poosimalaikuppam Palace (Thiruvannamalai), Arni Jagirthar's Palace (Thiruvannamalai), Ramalingavilasam (Ramanathapuram), Sivaganga Palace (Sivaganga), Maratha Palace (Thanjavur) etc.



Ramalingavilasam, Ramanathapuram

CHAPTER 3

PROTECTED MONUMENTS IN TAMIL NADU

Centrally Protected Monuments

The Archaeological Survey of India has protected over 5000 monuments in the whole of India. Archaeological Survey of India is a Central Government organisation functioning under the culture department and over 600 monuments and sites in Tamil Nadu since its inception and maintains them. They are listed below:

Chengalpattu District

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|
| 1. | Big Kanchipuram | Iravathaneswara Temple |
| 2. | -do- | Matangeswara Temple |
| 3. | -do- | Mukteswara Temple |
| 4. | Kanchipuram | Jvarahareswara Temple |
| 5. | -do- | Piravathaneswara Temple |
| 6. | Kalathur | Munkudumi Easwara Temple |
| 7. | Madavilagam | Large Siva Temple of Tenneri |
| 8. | Mamallapuram | Arjuna's Penance |
| 10. | -do- | Arjuna's Rath |
| 11. | -do- | Bhima's Rath |
| 12. | -do- | Dharmaraja's Rath |
| 13. | -do- | Dharmaraja's Rock-cut Throne |
| 14. | -do- | Dolotsva Mandapa |
| 15. | -do- | Draupadi's Rath |
| 17. | -do- | Eight stone images on a masonry platform known as the seven pidaris |
| 18. | -do- | Huge stone figures of a lion / elephant and a bull |
| 19. | -do- | Iswara Temple (Dakannesvara temple) |

20. -do-	Kotikal Mandapa
21. -do-	Krishna's Butter Ball
22. -do-	Krishna Mandapam
23. -do-	Large unfinished rock sculpture similar to Arjuna's Penance near the Light House
24. -do-	Mahishasuramardini rock-cut Mandapa
25. -do-	Mahishasura rock standing in the sea to the North of the shore Temple
26. -do-	Mukundanayanar Temple (North of the Village)
27. -do-	Rock-Cut Ganesa Temple
28. -do-	Rock-Cut Varaha Temple containing Varaha and Vamana incarnations of Vishnu
29. -do-	Rock-cut sculpture representing a group of elephants, monkeys and peacock
30. -do-	Royagopuram-Unfinished
31. Mamallapuram	Sahadeva's Rath
32. -do-	Shore Temple
33. -do-	Small monolithic temples known as Valaiyankuttai Rath-Unfinished)
34. -do-	Stone sculpture representing a group of monkeys
35. -do-	Triple celled rock-cut shrine with Gopi's churn in front of it
36. -do-	Two rock-cut cave temples at North East corner of the Koneri Pallam Tank
37. -do-	Two small carved rocks to the south of the Shore Temple
38. -do-	Two small monolithic temples known as Pidari Amman Rath-Unfinished

- | | |
|---|---|
| 39. -do- | Unfinished Rath and stone couch |
| 40. -do- | Unfinished rock-cut cave temple North of Krishna Mandapa |
| 41. Manimangalam | Old Temple with apsidal |
| 42. Parameswara
Vinnagaram (Kanchipuram) | Vaikunthaperumal Temple |
| 43. Pulicat | Dutch Cemetery |
| 44. Sadras | Ruined Dutch Fort and Cemetery |
| 45. Salabogam (Kanchipuram) | Kailasanatheswara Temple |
| 46. Salavankuppam | Tiger headed rock-cut temple |
| 47. -do- | Two inscribed rocks, one having six and the other fifty lines of ancient Tamil inscriptions with remains of other ancient buildings |
| 48. -do- | Rock-cut Siva Temple with three lingas |
| 49. Tenneri | Lesser Siva Temple |
| 50. Tiruvan (Tiruvidadanthai) | Nityakalyanaswami Temple |
| 51. Tirukkalikunram | Orukkal Mandapam |
| 52. Tirumukkudal | Venkatesaperumal Temple |
| 53. Uttiramerur | Vaikunthaperumal Temple |
| 54. Vayalur | Tirupuleswara Temple |

Coimbatore District

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 55. Tirumuruganpoondi | Muruganatha Temple |
|-----------------------|--------------------|

Dharmapuri District

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 56. Krishnagiri | Hill Fort |
| 57. Royakottai | Hill Fort |
| 58. Adiyamankottai | Chennarayaperumal Temple-together with adjoining lands |

Erode District

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 59. Mettupudur | Jain Temple |
| 60. Sircar Periya Palayam | Sugrisvara temple and tank |

Villupuram District

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 62. Srivilliputtur | Tirumala Nayak's palace |
|--------------------|-------------------------|

Kanyakumari District

- | | |
|---|--|
| 60. Tirunandikara | Rock-cut cave temple together with adjoining land. |
| 61. Arumanai Village
(Chitral Desam) | Bhagavathi Temple (Kanyakumari) |
| 62. Vattakottai
Parthivapuram | Fort |
| 63. Vilavancode Taluk | Parthasarathy and Krishna temples |

Chennai District

- | | |
|--|--|
| 64. Arsenal | Between Wellesley House and Clive's House with shells and cannons piled together near the gateway BK IV / 1-12 and 14-18 |
| 65. Big Warehouse | South of the Church library (in BK NO II / 7 |
| 66. Chaplain's House | Including portion which is the northern side of the old wall-II / 1 |
| 67. Garrison Engineer's Depot | BK No V |
| 68. Guard Room | Block No V |
| 69. Kings Barracks | Block No XXV |
| 70. Last House on the left of Snob's (Block No I / 1)
Alley' eldest house in the Fort
with carved stair case | |
| 71. Nursing Sisters' House | Block 1 / 3 |
| 72. Old British Infantry Officers' | Now housing the Fort Museum Block
Mess XXXVI / 2 |

- Ramparts, gates, bastion, ravelins with vaulted chambers and water cisterns underneath; moat and defence walls all around with glacis to the extent of the existing barbed wire fence.
75. St. Mary's Church It is a living church
73. Wellesley House (Built in 1798)
BK No IV / 13
74. Tondiarpet Old Town Wall
75. David Yale and Joseph Muthialpet – Law College
Hynmer's Tomb compound

Madurai District

77. Alagarkoil Alagarmalai Cavern with Pancha Pandava beds midway between Alagarmalai and Kidampatti
78. Kalluthu Jain statues, rock inscriptions and Pancha Pandava beds on the hill
79. Karadipatti Rock-cut bas relief and beds and a mutilated Jain stone image
80. Keelakuilkudy Rock-cut bas relief of Jain images with inscriptions in Vatteluttu in Amanarmalai or Samanarmalai
77. Kilaiyur-Kilavalavu Pancha Pandava bed, Jain statues and Brahmi and Vatteluttu inscriptions the Pancha Pandavas
78. Melakuilkudy Rock-cut beds under natural rock shelter in Amanarmalai or Samanarmalai
79. Mettupatti Cave in Sitharmalai
80. Tirupparankunram Cavern with Pancha Pandava beds on the Western slope of the hills and similar beds Behind the Sikandar Mosque on the top
81. -do- Rock-cut cave inscriptions
82. Uttamapalayam Karuppanaswamy rock and Jain Sculptures

Dindigul District

83. Pallapatti Fort on rock (Dindigul Fort)

Pudukkottai District

84. Alangudipatti Jain Tirthankara image
85. Alathur Jain image
86. Ammachatram Whole cave with two Jain figures carved on the rock over it and damaged inscription
87. Ammankurichi Whole of Siva temple and the inscribed stone in front mandapam
88. Annavasal Two Jain Tirthankara image in a coconut plantation
89. Ariyur Siva temple
90. Chettipatti Jain Tirthankara images and inscribed stone
91. -do- Ruined Jain temple
92. Chittur Sarangathesvara (also known as Thiruvagneswara) temple
93. Devarmalai Rock- cut Siva shrine
94. Irumbanadu Kalabhamudayar temple
95. -do- Siva temple and the lion pillar
96. Irumbanadu Soundararajaperumal temple
97. -do- Stone idols of Ganesa and Anjaneya
98. Kannangarakudi Jain Tirthankara idol
99. Kannangudi Jain image, stone lion and foundations of a temple
100. Kannanur Balasubramanya temple
101. Keelaiyur Ruined Siva temple
102. Keelathanayam Uttamadanisvara temple

103. Kiranur	Uttamanathaswami temple (Siva)
104. Kodumbalur	Muchukundeswara temple and the tank in front of it
105. -do-	Muvarkoil with surrounding sub-shrines, stone enclosure and stone wall on the North-East corner
106. -do-	Remains of Aivarkoil
107. -do-	Remains of the structural temple and antiquities
108. Kudumianmalai	Amman shrine
109. -do-	Cavern on the Western side of the Kudumianmalai temple hill
110. -do-	Musical inscriptions
111. -do-	Rock-cut shrine called Melakkoil with <i>mandapa</i> in front
112. -do-	Sikkanathaswami temple
113. Kulattur	Eight natural caverns, Jain idols and inscriptions Kudumianmalai Aladiperumal parainadu
114. -do-	Siva temple
115. Kunnandarkoil	Rock-cut Siva cave temple, hall of 100 pillared Mandapa or car mandapam with wheels in front part of the plinth
116. Letchumanpatti	Jain idol and remains of the Jain temple
117. Madarapatti	Idols in the southern bund of Teppakkulam or Urani
118. Malayakkovil	Two rock-cut Siva shrines on the Eastern and Southern slopes of the hill
119. Malayadipatti	Rock-cut Siva temple (Pallava 8 th Century)
120. -do-	Rock-cut Siva Vishnu cave temple (Pallava 8 th – 9 th Century)

121. Mangathevanpatti	Jain temple site
122. –do–	Ruins of a Jain shrine
123. Mangudi	Siva and Pillayar temple
124. Marudur	Jain Tirthankara idol (Ayyanar) and Devi idols
125. Melanilaivayal	–
126. Melanilaipatti	Menandar Pillayar temple
127. Melur	Jain Tirthankara idol and relics of old Jain temple
128. –do–	Vishnu idol
129. Mylapatti	i. Jain Tirthankara image in <i>sughasana</i> lying in bas relief on a slab ii. Remains of the temple iii. Ganesa image iv. The surrounding positions in the Karuppar hill v. <i>Nandi</i> with inscriptions on the basement and vi. Nangupatti
130. Madathukoil	Tirupperumanadar temple
131. Nanjur	Jain idol, two Durga idols, one Vishnu idol and a Inscribed stone slab
132. Narthamalai	Ammankoil
133. –do–	Rock-cut Siva temple
134. –do–	Vijayalaya Choleeswara & the group of sub-shrines around it
135. –do–	Rock-cut Vishnu shrine
136. Nathampennai	Jain image and inscription to the South of it on The summit of the Sadayappatti
137. Nirpalani	Siva temple

138. Panangudi	Siva temple
139. -do-	Vishnu temple
140. Ponnamaravathy	Rajendracholiswara temple
141. Puttambur	Jain image and the surrounding temple site Locally called Mottai Pillayarkoil
142. Puvalakkudi	Rock-cut shrine of Pushpavaneswara
143. Puliyur	Jain Tirthankara image
144. Rajalipatti	Stone sluice with Nandipottan's inscription
145. Rasipuram	Stone idols of Vishnu and Devi and Siva temples
146. Sembattur	Jain mound, Jain images, other idols and lion Pillars
147. Sembuthi	Natural cavern called Andarmatam
148. Sengirai	Vishnu and Sridevi idols
149. Sevalur	Sri Bhumisvaraswami temple
150. Sittannavasal	Natural cavern with stone beds and Brahmi and old Tamil inscriptions called Eladipattam
151. -do-	Rock-cut Jain temple
152. Suriyur	Tiruvilangudy Siva temple
153. Tennangudi	Siva temple
154. Thekkattur	Jain Tirthankara image seated on a pedestal to the East of the bund
155. Tirukalambur	Sanctum of Siva temple
156. Tirukkattalai	Sundareswara temple with sub-shrine
157. Tirumayam	Rock-cut Siva temple (Satyagiriswara)
158. -do-	Rock-cut Vishnu temple (Satyamurthy)
159. -do-	Stone and brick fort

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 160. Tiruppur | Choliswaramudayar temple |
| 161. -do- | Jain image in water-spread of Pudukkulam |
| 162. Todaiyur | Siva temple |
| 163. Valavampatti | Jain Tirthankara image and inscribed stone slab |
| 164. Varappur | Siva temple |
| 165. Varpet | Siva temple on the Western bund of Enadikanmoi |
| 166. Veerakkudy | Jain Tirthankara image |
| 167. Vellanur | Agastisvara temple |
| 168. -do- | Kailasanatha temple |
| 169. Viralimalai | Two lion pillars in the Vahana mandapa of The Subramanya temple |
| 170. Visalur | Siva temple |

Ramanathapuram District

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 174. Kunnakudi | Boulder stone bed and Brahmi inscriptions on the hill and rock cut temples with inscriptions at the foot of the hill |
|----------------|--|

Salem District

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 175. Attur | Remains of the fort with the buildings there on |
| 176. Chinnakavandanur | Fort and temple on the hill Namakkal District |
| 177. Namakkal | Hill fort |
| 178. -do- | Sri Narasimhaswami and Sri Ranganathaswamy temples |

Cuddalore District

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 174. Dalavanur | Rock-cut Pallava temple |
|----------------|-------------------------|

175. Gingee

Fortress comprising of hill fort on the Rajagiri, The inner and lower fort and lines of the fortification connecting Rajagiri, Krishnagiri and Chakkilidrug (Orme's St. George's Mountain) hills

In the Minor and lower forts

- a.
 - i. Inner fort, Venugopala temple called ajanaikudam) with large polished slab and 5 carved figures in 3 panels, a granary, a gymnasium, Kalyana Mahal
 - ii. Stables and barracks, remains of Mahabat Khan's Mosque
 - iii. Anaikulam tank
- b) Lower fort, Chakkaraikulam, a dais with two idols representing Kamalakkanni Amman and with 2 symbols of serpent god, the masonry platform of Desing's funeral pyre and his wife's sati, idol of Hanuman

Old jail near the Pondy gate and two Persian inscriptions on the outer face of the last 2 bastions on the south of the eastern wall of the inner fort

Saad-at-Ullah Khan's mosque with Persian inscriptions, inscriptions in Persian in Pondy gate (AD 1718)

2 Granaries, a magazine, a flag staff, Ranganatha temple, Kamalakkanni Amman temple and the sacrificial slab in front of it. A big cannon, a treasury and the Audience Hall on the Rajagiri

2 Granaries, well for storing ghee, well for storing oil, two temples and an audience chamber on the Krishnagiri

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 181. -do- | Venkataramana temple with inscriptions in Tamil, prisoners well |
| 182. Kilmavilangai | Pallava rock-cut shrine |
| 183. Narasingarayanpettai | Outside the fort-Pattabhirama temple and 12 Pillared <i>mandapa</i> |
| 184. Mandagapattu | Rock-cut shrine |
| 185. Srikadambur | 24 Jain figures on two rows a standing nude Figure. Two fragments of a sitting figure and two inscriptions on Tirunathankunru |
| 186. Srimushnam | Nitisvaraswamy temple |
| 187. Thondur | Vinnamparai rock containing Pallava Inscriptions |
| 186. Panamalai | Talagiriswara temple and a cave containing an Image of Durga and Pallava inscriptions together with adjacent land Thanjavur district |
| 187. Chatram Darasuram | Airavateswara temple |
| 188. Ramapada Mandapam | Ramapada Mandapam |
| 189. Kodiakkadu | Inscribed stone |
| 190. Kodiakkarai | Town gateway |
| 191. Thanjavur | Schwartz (Christ) Church |
| 192. -do- | Sivaganga little fort enclosing the big temple |

Nagappattinam District

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 193. Tranquebar | Big cannon (Rajagopal cannon) in the East Rampart and the bastions in TS No 608 of ward III |
|-----------------|---|

Tirunelveli District

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 194. Seramadevi
(Cheranmahadevi) | Bhaktavatsala temple |
| 195. Tirumalapuram | Two rock-cut temples with inscriptions in Varanachimalai |

196. Tiruvaliswaram Valisvara temple

Trichy District

197. Gangai Konda Chola Puram
(GKC)

Brihadisvara temple

198. Jayankondacholapuram

Jain statue built of granite

199. -do-

Jain statue called Paluppar

200. Musiri

Head Sluice-Periavoikal – Naduvoikal

201. Ranjangudi

Fort

202. Srinivasanallur

Korangunatha temple

203. Trichy

Rock Fort –Lower cave

1. Path leading to the site in front of the
ower cave.

2. Path leading to the upper cave

3. Site in front of the lower cave,

4. Upper cave

204. -do-

Fort gateway

205. Tiruverumbur

Siva temple

206. Vaigainallur

Rock

207. Vallapuram

Shamskhan's mosque

208. Valikantapuram

Siva temple

Vellore District

209. Arcot

Arcot cannon

210. -do-

Adjoining building to the Masjid and two ponds

211. -do-

Delhi Gate

212. -do-

Masjid and two ponds in the West of the
Citadel

213. Erukkampattu	Ranganatha temple
214. Keelputtur	Swayambunatha temple
215. Sholinghur	Rock inscription in the right flank of Sholinghur tank
216. Tirumalpur	Konar temple
217. Vallimalai	Subramanyaswamy temple
218. -do-	Jain sculptures and inscriptions on the hill
219. Vellore	Jalankanteswara temple
220. -do-	Fort
221. -do-	Old mosque in the fort
222. Vilapakkam	Rock, sculptures and caves
223. Muppeduvetti	North-East corner of the outer rampart of the old fort at Arcot

Thiruvannamalai District

224. Koranganilmuttam	Rock-cut shrine
225. Mahendravadi	Monolithic Rock-cut temple
226. Mamandur	Rock-cut caves, sculptures and inscriptions
227. Melpadi	Choleswara temple
228. -do-	Somanatha temple
229. Narasamangalam	Rock-cut caves
230. Nattery	Chandramoulisvara temple
231. Seeyamangalam	Rock-cut temple and sculptures
232. Tirumalai	Jain temple

CENTRALLY PROTECTED SITES IN TAMIL NADU**Chengalpattu District**

1. Adukkam	Dolmens near Palamalai
2. Pannaikkadu	Dolmens in Machur RF
3. -do-	Dolmens near Machur
4. -do-	Dolmens near Talayar river on the top of the hill
5. -do-	Dolmens
6. Agaram	Megalithic cists and cairns in S.No.222
7. -do-	-do- in S. No. III and 116
8. Alattur	Urn burials
9. Amirthamangalam	Megalithic and cairns
10. Amur	-do-
11. Anur	-do-
12. Araiypakkam	-do-
13. Atcharavakkam	-do-
14. Attanthangal	Virgin group containing many barrows excellently preserved
15. Ayyanjeri	Megalithic and cairns with stone circles
16. Chedalpakkam	Megalithic
17. Echchur	Megalithic and cairns with stone circles
18. Edakunram	-do-
19. Eluchur	-do-
20. Erumaiyur	-do-
21. Gudalur	-do-
22. Guduvancheri (Vallamjeri)	-do-

23.	Gunduperumbedu	Megalithic and cairns with stone circles
24.	Kadamalaiputhur	Chromlechs
25.	-do-	Cairns in the RF at the foot of Perumbair hills
26.	Kadapperi	Group of cairns
27.	Kalanipakkam	Megalithic and cairns
28.	Kalathur	-do-
29.	Kalvay	-do-
30.	Kanakapattu	-do-
31.	Kanchipuram	Pallavamedu or Balaiarmedu
32.	Kandalur	Megalithic cists and cairns
33.	Karanaithangal	
	Porinjambakkam	-do-
34.	Kattuputtur	-do-
35.	Kilampakkam	-do-
36.	Kottamedu	-do-
37.	Kumili	-do-
38.	Kunnathur	Megalithic cists and cairns on the hill
39.	Kunnavakkam	Megalithic cists and cairns
40.	Kuravanmedu	-do-
41.	Madayathur	-do-
42.	Maganiyam	-do-
43.	Mamallapuram	Two unfinished excavations near the light house
44.	Mamallapuram	Unfinished excavations close to triple celled rock-cut shrine
45.	Mamallapuram	Unfinished excavations South of Draupadi Rath.

46. Mailai	Megalithic cists and cairns
47. Malaipattu	-do-
48. Malaivaiyavur	-do-
49. Mampattu	-do-
50. Manamai	-do-
51. Melkottaiyur	-do-
52. Moosaivakkam	-do-
53. Naduvakkarai	-do-
54. Nandambakkam	-do-
55. Nandivaram	Megalithic cists and cairns
56. Nanmangalam	Group of cairns
57. Nattam	Megalithic cists and cairns
58. Nedungundram	-do-
59. Nellikuppam	-do-
60. Neyveli	-do-
61. Olalur	-do-
62. Ottivakkam	-do-
63. Ottiyambakkam	-do-
64. Padur	-do-
65. Padavakkam	Urn burials
66. Palayasivaram	Megalithic cists and cairns
67. Pallavaram	-do-
68. Palliyagaram	-do-
69. Pammadukulam	-do-
70. Panchali	-do-

71. Pandur	Megalithic cists and cairns
72. Paranur	-do-
73. Perumbakkam	-do-
74. Perunagar	-do-
75. Perungalatur	-do-
76. Pondavakkam	-do-
77. Ponmar	-do-
78. Porundavakkam	-do-
79. Pottur	-do-
80. Puduppakkam	-do-
81. Pulal	Pre-historic settlement site-megalithic period
82. Pulippakkam	Megalithic cists and cairns
83. Poondi	-do-
84. Rajakulipettai	-do-
85. Rayalpattu	-do-
86. Sanur	-do-
87. Sastirambakkam	-do-
88. Sembakkam	-do-
89. Sembakkam	Group of cairns and cists
90. Sengarai	Cairn site
91. Sengunram	Megalithic cists and cairns
92. Settipuniyam	-do-
93. Settupattu	-do-
94. Sikkarayapuram	-do-
95. Sirudavur	-do-

96. Sirukalattur	Megalithic cists and cairns
97. Sirukunram	-do-
98. Siruvadu	-do-
99. Sittalapakkam	-do-
100. St. Thomas Mount	Urn burial and Megalithic site
101. Tadipadi	Megalithic cists and cairns
102. Tandalam	-do-
103. Tattanur	-do-
104. Tiruneermalai	Group of cairns
105. Tiruneermalai	Megalithic cists
106. Tirupporur	Megalithic cists and cairns
107. Tirusulam	-do-
108. Tiruvadisulam	-do-
109. Unamanjeri	-do-
110. Uttiramerur	Dolmens site
111. Vadakkuppattu	Megalithic cists and cairns
112. Vadamangalam	-do-
113. Vaiyavur	-do-
114. Vanamalli	-do-
115. Vandalur	Megalithic cists
116. Vedanarayanapuram	Megalithic cists and cairns
117. Vembedu	-do-
118. Vengur	-do-
119. Venkitapuram	-do-
120. Venpakkam	-do-

121. Venpakkam	Megalithic cists and cairns
122. Venpakkam	-do-
123. Virakuppam	-do-
124. Virapuram	-do-
Coimbatore District	
125. Chettipalayam	Mandapakkadu-(Structure with mound)
126. Kanyampundi	Prehistoric site (known as Pandava graves) The Nilgiris district
127. Kotagiri	Group of sculptured dolmens Vellore district
128. Mottur	Prehistoric site
129. Nedungal	Megalithic cists and cairns
130. Tellur	Megalithic cists
131. Tetturai	Megalithic cists
132. Venkunnam	Megalithic cists
Pudukkottai District	
133. Amburupatti	Dolmens and cairns
134. Ammachatram	Prehistoric burial site (known as Kurangu-Pattarai)
135. Annavasal	Prehistoric burial site, stone circles and menhirs
136. Chokkanatapatti	Dolmens
137. Karai	Megalithic cists and cairns
138. Kilaiyur	Dolmens
139. Melur	Prehistoric burial site
140. Mottampatti	Dolmens
141. Narangianpettai	Prehistoric burial site
142. Perugalur	Prehistoric Dolmens

143. Peyal	Prehistoric Dolmens
144. Poyyamani and Virudupatti	Dolmens and Ayyanar images
145. Puttambur	Prehistoric burial site
146. Satyamangalam	-do-
147. Sendakkudy	Cairns and urns
148. Sengalur	Dolmens and urns
149. Sittannavasal	Dolmens in Annavasal Vattam
150. Thayinipatti	Dolmens (known as Kurangupattarai)
151. Thekkattur	Prehistoric burials
152. Tirukkattalai	Kalasakkadu burial sites
153. Tiruppur	Group of dolmens
154. Vadugupatti	Prehistoric burial site
155. Vathanakkurichi	Old burial sites
156. Vilappatti	Prehistoric burial site
Cuddalore District	
157. Kadagambattu	Urn burial site
158. Sengamedu	Megalithic cairns and stone circles
159. Tiruvakkarai	Megalithic stone circles
Thanjavur District	
160. Melaiyur	Early historic site
Tirunelveli District	
161. Adichanallur	Prehistoric sites
162. Kalvei	Prehistoric sites
163. Karungulam	Prehistoric sites
164. Kunnathur	Ancient sites

STATE PROTECTED MONUMENTS IN TAMIL NADU**Ariyalur District**

1. Erattaikkoil-Kilaiyur-Ariyalur taluk

Chengalpattu District

2. Fort-Alambarai-Alamparai-Madurantakam taluk
3. Chandra Prabha Temple-Thiruparuthikunram-Chengalpattu taluk
4. Chokkeeswar Temple-Kanchipuram-Chengalpattu taluk
5. Karungulikkottai-Karunguli-Madurantakam taluk
6. Siva Temple-Kooram-Chengalpattu taluk
7. Thirulohanatha Jain Temple-Thiruparuthikunram-Chengalpattu taluk
8. Vazhipokkar Mantapa-Thangi-Chengalpattu taluk
9. Vittala Temple-Vittalapuram-Chengalpattu taluk
10. Mahadevan Temple-Edayarpakkam-Thirupperumpudur taluk, Kanchipuram
11. Siva Temple-Sivankoodal-Sriperumpudur taluk, Kanchipuram
12. Pillaichathiram-Selvazhimangalam-Thirupperumpudur taluk, Kanchipuram
13. Siva Temple-Sivapuram-Thirupperumpudur taluk

Chennai District

14. Memorial Pillar, Arasupannai, Guindy-Mambalam taluk

Coimbatore District

15. Cave paintings-Vettaikkaranmalai Narasimhapuram-Coimbatore taluk

Cuddalore District

16. Kathambavaneswarar Temple-Erumbur-Chidambaram taluk
17. Rudrapathi Temple-Kilakadambur-Chidambaram taluk

Dharmapuri District

18. Athiyaman Peruvazhikkal-Pakkirimedu-Dharmapuri taluk
19. Ramasami-Krishnasami Temple-Mallappadi-Krishnagiri

20. Jegadevi Fort, Jegadevipalayam, Krishnagiri taluk

Dindigul District

21. Chinna Ivar Malai Cave-Thathanayakanpatti-Palani taluk

22. Pandhya's Inscription and Rock Bed-Ramanathapuram-Vedansandur taluk

Karur District

23. Amaravathi River Bed-Thanthoni-Karur taluk

24. Ancient Rock Paintings-Velayuthampalayam-Karur taluk

Madurai District

25. Asthagiriswar Temple-Varichiyur-Madurai North taluk

26. Brahmi Inscription-Aramanur-Anamalai-Madurai taluk

27. Brahmi Inscription-Konkarapuliangulam-Thirumangalam taluk

28. Govalanpottal-Madakulam-Madurai taluk

29. Karungalakkudi Inscription-Karunkalakkudi-Melur taluk

30. Ladan Temple-Aramanur-Anamalai-Madurai taluk

31. Ovamalai Inscription-Meenakshipuram- Melur taluk

32. Rock-cut Beds-Murugan Temple-Varichur Hills-Madurai North taluk

33. Siva Cave Temple-Arittampatti-Melur taluk

34. Siva Temple-Ayyappatti-Melur taluk

35. Ten Pillars-Madurai-Madurai taluk

36. Thirumalai Nayak Mandapa-Valayappatti-Melur taluk

37. Thirumalai Nayak Palace-Madurai-Madurai taluk

38. Thiruvathavur Inscription-Thiruvathavur-Melur taluk

39. Tirthankara Sculptures-Aramanur-Anaimalai-Madurai taluk

40. Udayagiriswarar Temple-Varichiyur-Madurai taluk

Nagappattinam District

41. Dutch Fort-Tharangambadi-Tharangambadi taluk

42. Dutch Tombs-Nagappattinam-Nagapattinam taluk

Namakkal District

43. Namakkal Fort-Namakkal-Namakkal taluk

Perambalur District

44. Maligai Medu-Inner Fort-Udayarpalayam taluk
45. Kalinga Sculptures-Chengamedu-Udayarpalayam taluk

Ramanathapuram District

46. Kattabomman Fort-Kamudhi-Mudukulathur taluk
47. Ramalingavilasam-Ramanathapuram-Ramanathapuram taluk

Salem District

48. Rock Wells and Ancient Tamil Inscriptions-Ammankoilpatti-Omalur taluk

Sivaganga District

49. Maruthupandiar Fort-Aranmanai Siruvayal-Karaikkudi taluk

Thanjavur District

50. Manora-Sarapendrarajapattinam-Pattukkottai taluk
51. Nerkalanjiyam (Giant Granary)-Thiruppanlaithurai-Papanasam taluk
52. Siva Temple Sadaiyarkoil-Thiruchinampoondi-Thanjavur taluk
53. Thanjavur Palace-Thanjavur-Thanjavur taluk

Thiruchirapalli District

54. Agastheeswara Temple-Perungudi-Trichy taluk
55. Pachil Amaleesuvaram Siva Temple-Alagiyamanavalam-Lalgudi taluk
56. Siva Temple-Alagiyamanavalam-Lalgudi taluk
57. Siva Temple-Alambakkam-Lalkudi taluk
58. Siva Temple-Pazhur-Trichirappalli taluk
59. Swastika Wells-Thiruvellarai-Lalgudi taluk

Thirunelveli District

60. Iraniankudiyiruppu Sculptures-Rajakkalmangalam-Nanguneri taluk

61. Poolavudaiyar Stone Inscription-Seevalapperi-Palayamkottai taluk

62. Thiruneelakandam-Pananchadi-Ambasamudram taluk

Kanyakumari District

63. Udayagiri Fort and Captain Dillenoy's Tomb, Padmanabapuram, Kalkulam taluk

Thiruvallur District

64. Visaleesvarar Temple-Vilakkanampoondi-Thiruthani taluk

Thiruvannamalai District

65. Chinnayanpettai Tank-Chinnayanpettai-Chengam taluk

66. Gangaikondacholeswara Temple-Koolamandal-Cheyyar taluk

67. Jain Temple (Poondi Arugan Temple)-Erumpedu-Arni taluk

68. Vandavasi Fort-Vandavasi-Vandavasi taluk

69. Thadagapuriswarar Temple, Madam, Vandavasi taluk

Tuticorin District

70. British Tombs-Ottappidaram-Ottappidaram taluk

71. British Tombs-Panchalamkurichi-Ottappidaram taluk

72. Kattabomman Fort-Panchalamkurichi-Ottappidaramtaluk

73. Vettuvan Temple-Kazhugumalai-Koilpatti taluk

Villupuram District

74. Hill Fort Walls-Thyagadurgam-Kallakkurichi taluk

75. Kabilar Rocks-Pennaru-Thirukoilur taluk

76. Prehistoric Cave Paintings-Setthavarai-Chenji taluk

77. Prehistoric Rock Paintings-Keelvalai-Thirukkoilur taluk

78. Rock Paintings-Alambadi-Thirukkoilur taluk

79. Siva Temple-Kandamangalam-Villupuram taluk

80. Thirumoolanatha Temple-Perangiyur-Ulundurpet taluk

- 81. Mukthialeswarar Temple and Seetha Cave-Perumukkal-Tindivanam taluk
- 82. Siva Temple-Ulagapuram-Vanur taluk
- 83. Vishnu Temple-Ulagapuram-Vanur taluk

Vellore District

- 84. Armamalai Caves-Malayampattu-Gudiyatham taluk
- 85. Tomb of the Ceylon Kings-Vellore-Vellore taluk
- 86. Valeeswara Temple-Thakkolam-Arakkonam taluk
- 87. Kanja Sahib's Tomb-Sholinghur-Wallajah Pet taluk
- 88. Seven Mothers' Sculptures-Perunkanchi-Wallajahpet

National Geological Parks

The Geological Survey of India has on its charter the preservation of features of unique geological interest of national or international significance. These if not preserved and protected, are likely to be subjected to human vandalism and lost. In pursuance of this, the Geological Survey of India has set up Geological monuments not only to preserve but high light their scientific importance to the scientific community at large. The setting up of a National Park at Thiruvakkarai, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu , by the Geological Survey of India in 1951 to preserve the rare and spectacularly preserved fossil tree trunks into a National Fossil Park was a truly precursor to the current programmes of the institution of geological monuments for pillow lavas in the Kolar gold Field area and the Peninsular Gneiss in the Lal Bagh Gardens, Bangalore, Karnataka, in 1974-75. The Geological Survey of India has displayed them at important parks and gardens to attract the attention of the public. Such displays in the form of Fossil Enclosures set up at the Children's Corner. Guindy Park, Chennai; national History Museum, Kerala; Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh; Cubbon Park, Bangalore; National Museum, New Delhi; The Government Museum, Chennai have been found to be very popular and educative.

A National Geological Monument for *charnockite*, a unique rock formation found in almost all hard rock area of the world, was erected on the St. Thomas Mount at Chennai Tamil Nadu, in May 1975, by the Geological Survey of India.

Forts and Fortifications

Forts are military strong holds. Fortifications are structures, or works, designed to make a place strong against enemy attack. They include any fortified structure, such as fort, barricade, trench, or building. Fortress is a general term for any heavily fortified place.

Kinds of Forts

Fort is a word of various meanings. Primarily it is a walled enclosure of limited area fortified for defence in all directions. Usually it is isolated, but a detached part of a line of defences, often called a redoubt, may also be called a fort. A bastioned fort is one with works, called bastions, which project outward from the main enclosure. The main walls may form a square, with bastions at the corners. Some bastioned forts are in the design of



Fort, Vellore

a star, which provides many sharp angles. Bastioned forts expose attackers to clear lines of fire at all times, even when close to the walls.

History of Fortification

The earliest civilisations grew up in walled cities. Troy, Babylon, Nineveh, Athens and Rome were defended by walls of considerable height and thickness that were almost impregnable by assault. There are many references in the Tamil literature for the existence of forts. The forts in Tamil Nadu were made up of hewn stone blocks, baked bricks, mud bricks etc. The famous among the forts in Tamil Nadu are Vellore Fort, Hill Fort at Trichy, Hill Fort at Namakkal. These forts attract many tourists every day.

Tombs

The Mughal tomb architecture in India developed parallel with that of the mosque. The tomb consists normally a square building with one chamber standing on a raised platform and a dome over it. In the centre of the square building stands the cenotaph. The tombs of Muslim saints are often surrounded by mosques, pilgrim halls and other tombs, forming a *dargah* i.e. place of pilgrimage. There are many mosques and *dargahs* in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has many tombs in various parts of Tamil Nadu. The tombs like Kandy King, Tombs of the British at Vellore, Ottapidaram, the mausoleums in Vellore, *dargahs* in various places still stand as monuments attracting many daily.

Tanks

Many rulers in Tamil Nadu constructed tanks, ponds, check dams for the purpose of irrigation, taking bath in the palace area. Many irrigation tanks and temple tanks are still in existence and they are the living testimonies of the rulers of the past dynasties. Even today many of the tanks are still in use reminding the activities of the past rulers. Every temple has a temple tank and the tanks were the percolation tanks for the well in the area. The tank at Chinnaiyanpettai was a sculptured tank to arouse the sexual interest of the daughter of the king Chinnaiyan. Among tanks the Grand Anaicut near Trichy is very famous.



Grand Anaicut, Trichy

Memorials

In the ancient past hero stones were erected in remembrance of the heroes for the good deeds of the heroes in their life and that the stones were kept erected in important places in the towns, villages, etc. The present day trend is to construct memorials for leaders,



Valluvar Kottam, Chennai

which is also a continuation of the past activities. Tamil Nadu has many memorials for leaders, poets, religious leaders etc. The very famous among them are the Vevekananda Memorial, Valluvar Kottam, Kattabomman Memorial, etc.

Mosques and Dargahs

The mosque near the Trichy Railway Station is the earliest mosque in Tamil Nadu. The Sheick Dawood Valiyullah Dargah in Muthuppettai, Pattukkottai taluk; Abil Kabil Dargah near Rameswaram Railway Station are some of the earlier dargahs. Committees of the local mosques and dargahs maintain mosques and dargahs. The Government of Tamil Nadu gives financial assistance towards renovation of mosques and dargahs. Besides the Government provides this financial assistance for the construction of compound walls around the burial grounds.



Dargah at Trichy

Monuments in Tamil Nadu Covered in This Book

Chennai District

- | | | |
|------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Santhome | 1. | Santhome Church. |
| Mylapore | 2. | Our Lady of Light Church |
| | 3. | Kapaleeswar Temple |
| Chepauk | 4. | Senate House |
| Fort St. George | 5. | Fort |
| | 6. | St. Mary's Church |
| Nungambakkam | 7. | Valluvar Kottam |
| Egmore | 8. | National Art Gallery |
| St. Thomas Mount | 9. | Charnockite |

Coimbatore District

- | | | |
|------------|-----|------------------------------|
| Perur | 10. | Patteeswara Temple |
| Avinashi | 11. | Avinashilingapperumal Temple |
| Coimbatore | 12. | Perumal Temple |

Cuddalore District

- | | | |
|-------------|-----|------------------------|
| Chidambaram | 13. | Nataraja Temple |
| Sri Mushnam | 14. | Bhuvaraghaswamy Temple |
| Cuddalore | 15. | Padaleeswara Temple |

Dharmapuri District

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Dharmapuri | 16. | Kamakshi Amman Temple |
| Adhiyamankottai | 17. | Chennarayaperumal Temple |

Dindigul District

- | | | |
|------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| Ivar Malai | 19. | Jain Sculptures and Inscriptions |
| Dindigul | 20. | Dindigul Hill Fort |
| Pazhani | 21. | Thandayuthapani Temple |

Erode District

Erode	22.	Easwaran Temple
	23.	Brough Church
	24.	Allaudhin Basha Durgah
	25.	Big Mosque
Arachalur	26.	Musical Inscription
Chennimalai	27.	Murugan Temple
Vijayamangalam	28.	Jain Temple
Thazhavadi	29.	Mosque
Bhavani	30.	Sangameswarar Temple
Kodumudi	31.	Magudalingeswarar Temple

Chengalpattu District

Kanchipuram	32.	Kailasanatha Temple
	33.	Vaikunthaperumal Temple
	34.	Ekambareswarar Temple
	35.	Varadharajaperumal Temple
	13.	Kamakshi Amman Temple
Thiruparuthikunram	14.	Jain Temple
Mamallapuram	15.	Shore Temple
	16.	Five Rathas
Thirukazhukunram	17.	Bakthavachala Temple

Kanyakumari District

Kanyakumari	38.	Thiruvalluvar Statue
Parthivapuram	39.	Circular Fort
Suchindram	40.	Thanumalayan Temple

Karur District

Karur	36.	Ivar Malai
Krishnagiri	18.	Krishnagiri Fort

Madurai District

Madurai	37.	Thirumalai Nayak Mahal
	38.	Meenakshi Sundarar Temple
	39.	Alagar Temple
Thiruparankunram	40.	Subramanya Temple

Namakkal District

Namakkal	36.	Namakkal Fort
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Nagappattinam District

Nagore	37.	Nagore Dargah
Velanganni	38.	Velanganni Madha Church
Tharangambadi	39.	Danish Fort

Perambalur District

Ariyalur	40.	Fossil Park
Valikandapuram	47.	Valiswarar Temple
Gangaikondacholapuram	48.	Gangaikondacholapuram Temple

Pudukkottai District

Thirugokarnam	49.	Gokarnesvara Temple
Thirukattalai	50.	Sundaresvara Temple
Thiruvarangulam	51.	Arangulanathaswamy Temple
Kaliapatti	52.	Siva Temple
Kodumbalur	53.	Muvarkoil
Kudumianmalai	54.	Sikhanatha Temple
Kunnandar Kovil	55.	Kunrandar Temple
Malayadipatti	56.	Siva and Vishnu Cave Temples
Narthamalai	57.	Vijayalayacholisvaram
Sittannavasal	58.	Cave Temple
Thirumayam	59.	Siva Vishnu Cave Temples
Avudaiyarkoil	60.	Athmanathaswamy Temple

Ramanathapuram District

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Ramanathapuram | 61. | Ramalingavilasam |
| | 62. | Ramanathaswamy Temple |
| Rameswaram | 63. | Kurusadai Island |
| Kamuthy | 64. | Sethupathy Fort |

Salem District

- | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Salem | 71. | Christ Church |
| Tharamangalam | 72. | Siva Temple |
| Sankagiri | 73. | Sankagiri Fort |
| Tharamangalam | 74. | Kailasanatha Temple |
| Thiruchengodu | 75. | Ardhanariswara Temple |

Sivaganga District

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|
| Kunrakudi | 76. | Rock-cut Temple |
| Piranmalai | 77. | Rock-cut Temple |
| Mahibalanpatti | 78. | Rock-cut Temple |

Thanjavur District

- | | | |
|---------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| Thanjavur | 79. | Brahadeeswara Temple |
| | 80. | The Maratha Palace |
| Kumbakonam | 81. | Sarangapani Temple |
| | 82. | Kumbeswarar Temple |
| | 83. | Nageswaraswamy Temple |
| | 84. | Ramasamy Temple |
| Tarasuram | 85. | Iravatheswara Temple |
| Thirubuvanani | 86. | Thirubuvananiathaswamy Temple |

Thiruchirappalli District

- | | | |
|------------------|-----|--|
| Thiruchirappalli | 86. | Rock Fort |
| | 87. | Lourdhu's Church |
| | 88. | Nazrat Thable Alam Badhusha
Natherveli Dargah |

89. Rani Mangammal Town Hall
- Uraiyur 89. Nachiar Temple
90. Grand Anaicut
- Thiruvanaikaval 91. Jambukeswarar Temple
- Srirangam 92. Sri Ranganthaswamy Temple
- Thiruvanaika 93. Jambukeswarar Temple

Thiruvallur District

- Sriperumpudur 91. Athikesavaperumal Temple
- Thiruthani 92. Murugan Temple

Thiruvannamalai District

- T.V. Malai 93. Arunachaleeswara Temple
- Chetput 94. Lourdhu's Church
- Thirumalai 95. Jain Temple

Tirunelveli District

- Chinnayanpettai 96. Chinnayanpettai Tank
- Tirunelveli 97. Kanthimathi Nellaiappar Temple
- Kazhugumalai 98. Vettuvan Temple
99. Jain Temple
- Courtalam 100. Chitra Sabha
- Sankarankoil 101. Sankaranrayana Temple
- Krishnapuram 102. Thiruvenkatanathaswamy Temple
- Tenkasi 103. Kasi Viswanathar Temple
- Thiruchendur 104. Senthilandavar Temple

Thiruvarur District

- Thiruvarur 103. Thiagaraja Temple

Tuticorin District

- Manappadu 105. Holy Cross Church
Thiruchendur 106. Senthilandavar Temple
Panchalankurichi 107. Kattabomman Fort

Villupuram District

- Thirukoilur 107. Siva Temple
Gingee 108. Gingee Fort
Thiruvakkarai 109. National Fossil Park
Kilvalai 110. Prehistoric Painting

Vellore District

- Arcot 111. Green Mosque
112. Delhi Gate
Vellore 113. Jalakandeeswarar Temple
114. Fort
Virinchipuram 115. Margabandaswamy Temple
Thirupathur 116. Christhukula Ashram Church
Thakkolam 117. Umapatheewswar Temple
Sholinghur 118. Vishnu Temple

CHAPTER 4

PROTECTING AGENCIES

Tamil Nadu is blessed with thousands of monuments both big and small bearing historical importance. They are either under the control of government departments, private trusts, societies or individuals. A little information about a selected few movements are given here. In order to get more information about the monuments one may approach the agencies. There fore it is pertinent to provide a list of such agencies. The various agencies, which look after the monuments are:

1. Archaeological Survey of India
2. Geological Survey of India
3. State of Archaeology
4. Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Board
5. Wakf Board
6. Christian Organisations
7. Trusts and Societies
8. Individuals

Archaeological Survey of India

The Archaeological Survey of India, an attached office of the Department of Culture, came into being in 1861. It is engaged in preservation, conservation and environmental development of centrally protected monuments and sites, exploration and excavation of ancient sites, conducting specialised studies on inscriptions and various phases of Indian architecture and also maintenance of archaeological museums.

The Archaeological Survey of India is under the overall charge of a Director General of Archaeology with head quarters at New Delhi. It discharges its responsibilities through seventeen circles at Aurangabad, Bangalore, Baroda, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Patna, Srinagar, Trichur, Trivandrum, two mini Circles, five excavation branches, a prehistory branch, a service branch, a horticulture branch, an epigraphy branch, a chemical branch, an antiquities branch and a museum branch.

The Chennai Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for the up keep of the monuments under its control in Tamilnadu. A Superintending Archaeologist is

in Tamilnadu is in-charge of the Circle and there are Conservation Assistants to look after the maintenance of the monuments in nine centres through out Tamil Nadu viz. Chennai, Mahabalipuram, Vellore, Thanjavur, Kanchipuram, Gingee, Keeranur, Thirumayam and Salem.

State Department of Archaeology

Tamil Nadu is rich in monuments and therefore, the rare monuments, which are not protected by the Archaeological Survey of India, are protected by the Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department. This department was established in 1961 by a Government Order issued in 1959. Today it protects 87 monuments in Tamilnadu.

Set-up

The Head Quarters is in Chennai. The Commissioner of Archaeology heads it. The Deputy Director is looking after the museums and monuments. One Deputy Superintending Archaeologist is looking after the excavations in the State. There are regional offices looked after by Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors. There is one Assistant Director to look after the administration of the department. This department has epigraphists, archaeological officers, registration officers etc. There is one Conservation unit and an Engineering unit to meet the needs of the conservation activities. It is headed by an Indian Administrative Service Officer as Commissioner. The monuments are looked after by Archaeological officers. The Conservation of buildings is looked after by the Conservation Engineer of the department. The paintings in the monuments are taken care off by the chemist of the department.

Geological Survey of India

The Geological Survey of India is one of the oldest premier geo-scientific organisations in the world. The important functions of the Geological Survey of India are, development of mineral, energy and water resources, management of natural hazards due to earthquake, flood, landslide, volcanism and protection of environment, surface and sub-surface investigation for civil engineering, irrigation as well as power projects, glaciological studies, tsunami etc. Marine service in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India, Airborne survey and expeditions to Antarctica are other areas of activity of the organisation.

The Geological Survey of India with Kolkata as its Central Headquarters functions under the Ministry of Mines. There are six regions, viz. Northern, Northeastern, southern, Eastern, Western and Central regions, three specialised Wings viz. Airborne Mineral Survey and Exploration, Coal and Marine wings and a Training Institute. The Geological Survey of India functions through its establishments located in thirty-one cities or towns spread through out the country.

Set Up

The Geological Survey of India is under the Ministry of Mines and is headed by the Director General. Deputy Director Generals head the regional offices. There are four Operations (OP) wings. The OP I has the responsibilities like planning, programming and monitoring laboratories at Kolkata, Head quarters. The OP II has the responsibilities like Human Resource Development, Board of Management, personnel, Cadre Management Stores, Engineering and Transport, Coordination with specialised wings. The OP III is the international wing. The OP IV has the responsibility of Map and Cartography, publication and photo-geology and remote sensing. The staff is classified as Scientific-main, Scientific-supportive, Technical stream and Administration. The total staff of the Geological Survey of India has a staff grand total of around 17,000.

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage is a non-governmental organisation in safeguarding our art and cultural Heritage. There is a conservation branch called, Indian Conservation Institutes.

Objectives of the Indian Conservation Institutes in India are:

1. To take up conservation and restoration of different types of objects of are including paintings on canvas, paper and other supports, bronzes and other metal artifacts, objects of wood and ivory, paper and palm-leaf manuscripts etc. the services rendered are charged on a reasonable, non-commercial basis with a view to making the centre self-sustaining.
2. Where objects are not available as in the case of mural paintings and stone sculptures, in temples and monuments, to undertake conservation projects at the site.
3. To render technical advice on conservation problems and to prepare conservation project reports.
4. To impart training in different branches of conservation. To conduct research on different artistic techniques in order to gain further knowledge about the pigments, media and other materials used.
5. To create awareness among the public about the need for conservation and the problems involved through periodical exhibitions, seminars and workshops.

The Indian Conservation Institute has its branches at Bangalore, New Delhi, Rampur, Jaipur, Trissur, Bhubaneswar, etc.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments is a department in Tamil Nadu, which has thousands of monuments its under control. This department controls all the temples, which have been brought under their control. It administers and protects the temples and their premises including properties.

Set Up

A Commissioner heads the department. There is an Additional Commissioner, Joint Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, and Executive Officers under his control. There are various categories of staff to administer the temples. There are regular and temporary staff in this department. There is an Engineering wing in this department to look after the restoration of the temples under their control. There are over 35,000 temples under the control of the department. Among them there are 56 mutts and 57 temples of the mutts, 17 Jain temples. There are four Icon Preservation Centres in Tamil Nadu viz Jambukeswar Akilandeswari Amman Temple, Trichirappalli; Menakshi Sundareswar Temple, Madurai; Nellaiappar Temple, Tirunelveli and Thiagaraja Temple, Thiruvarur.

Particulars of the Temples under the Control of HR&C

There are Hindu temples both Saivite and Vishnavite, Jain temples and temples such as village deities. According to the 2005 survey of the department of HR&CE there are over 36,000 temples.

1. Hindu temples	36,369
2. Mutts	56
3. Temples belonging to Mutts	57
4. Jain temples	17

Wakf Board

Wakf means the permanent dedication by a person professing Islam, of any movable or immovable property for any purpose recognised by the Muslim law as pious, religious or charitable. The Wakf Act 1954 came into force in the State of Tamil Nadu on 15th January 1955. After the implementation of the Wakf Act 1995 (Central Act 43 of 1995) the Government of Tamil Nadu in the G.O. Ms No. 221 Commercial Taxes and Religious Endowment Department, dated 10th June 1997, reconstituted the Wakf Board with 13 members and notified the same on 10th June 1997.

Set Up

The Wakf Board has got 13 members. The Board has a Chairman and twelve members who are all constituted by the Government. The Chief Executive Officer is the Ex-Officio Secretary of the Board. The head quarters is at Chennai. It has two Assistant Secretaries in the head quarters office assisted by four office superintendents and a team of other staff. There are ten Zonal Offices headed by Office Superintendents in the following places:

1. Chennai
2. Coimbatore
3. Madurai
4. Panrutti
5. Ramanathapuram
6. Salem
7. Tanjore
8. Tirunelveli
9. Trichy and
10. Vellore

There are mosques, dargahs, burial grounds, Arabic Colleges, Ashur Khana, and miscellaneous organisations under the control of the Wakf Board.

Sunni Sect

Mosques	2873
Dargahs	1254
Burial Grounds	747
Arabic Colleges	329
Ashur Khana	87
Miscellaneous	806

Shia Sect

Mosques	53
	<u>6149</u>

Christian Organisations

Churches are under the control of Christian organisations such as Roman Catholic Diocese, Churches of South India, Evangelical Churches of India, Baptist Church, Luthran Church, Orthodox Church, many branches of Pentecostal churches like The Pentecostal Mission, Indian Pentecostal Church, Apostolic Christian Church, Assemblies of God etc.

Roman Catholic Churches

The Roman Catholic churches in Tamil Nadu are under the control of the Roman Catholic Diocese. The local priest-in-charge looking after the churches with the help of the committees of the parish. The maintenance of the church is carried out regularly by the committee. The head of the diocese is called Arch Bishop. Some of the important churches are Shrine Velanganni, Velanganni; Santhome Church, Santhome, Lourdhu's Church, Trichy etc.

Church of South India

The Church of South India is a union of churches and each unit is called a diocese. The head is called Bishop. The heads of the Bishops is called the Moderator. The various Dioceses in Tamil Nadu are Chennai Diocese, Madurai Diocese, Vellore Diocese, Trichy Diocese, Tirunelveli Diocese and Kanyakumari Diocese. Each Diocese has sub-divisions called Circles and Units. These units are headed by Priests. Each big church has a priest-in-charge. Some times a priest is entrusted with many churches. These dioceses are involved in educational and medical activities in their jurisdiction besides religious activities. The renowned churches in Tamil Nadu are the St. Peter's Church, Tanjore; Brough's Church, Erode etc. They have towers mostly.

There are different Protestant denominations such as Evangelical Churches of India, Luthran Church, Baptist Church, etc., in Tamil Nadu. The churches belonging to various denominations are available in the State but all of them are not monuments. Different pentecostal churches denominations are also there in Tamilnadu but the architecture of the churches are not monuments but they are functional buildings.

Private Trusts

There are many denominations of Christian churches, which are registered trusts engaged in religious, educational and medical activities in various parts of Tamil Nadu. The Chiristhukula Ashram Church in Thiruppathur, vellore district in Drawdian architecture, is one of the best churches managed by a Private Trust.

Individual Churches

There are many churches which are not maintained by trusts or societies. Individuals construct churches and are maintained by them. These churches are not monuments.

CHAPTER 5

CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS

Monuments testify man's efforts to the present day society through visible media. This has resulted slowly in the construction of places of worship such as temples, churches, mosques, dargahs, gurudwaras etc., as per the provenance of the particular religion. It is our duty to preserve these monuments to posterity with the available technology of this time. Conservation is increasing the life expectancy of the monument. In order to conserve the monuments, one should have a thorough knowledge of materials used, deteriorating factors, the remedial measures etc.

Materials Used in Monuments

Among the various natural materials available to the ancient man, he chose stone as the very important material for construction. Starting with stone excavated temples, he constructed stone built temples and finally he used mainly brick masonry temples and buildings. Geologically rocks can be grouped into igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic varieties. Most of the monuments in Tamil Nadu have been constructed with granite stones, which is an igneous rock. The monuments in Kanchipuram especially the Kailasanatha Temple and Vaikunthaperumal Temple are constructed out of sandstone, which is a sedimentary rock.

Deteriorating Agencies

Weathering is a natural phenomenon by which all the stone monuments are deteriorating. They are physical weathering, chemical weathering and biological weathering.

Due to the exposure of the building to the natural agents like sun, wind, rain, saline atmosphere and other factors for many centuries continuously, the surface of stones of the buildings undergo deterioration resulting in the collapse of the buildings if they are not conserved.

Rain dissolves the gases like nitrous and nitric oxides, sulphur dioxide, etc., sulphur trioxide present in the atmosphere and becomes acidic and the chemical liquid thus formed naturally erodes chemically the surface of the stone monuments bringing out chemical weathering of the monument.

Biological agents like moss, lichen etc., grow over the rain exposed stone monuments and due to the acidity produced by these biological agents, the surface of the stone monuments is biologically deteriorating. The plants, which grow out of the seeds dropped by birds in the gaps of the stone joints slowly grow into trees and finally destroy the

monuments through their strong and deeply penetrated roots. The bird's droppings, containing very harmful organic materials, which get collected on the monuments over a long period of time damage the surface.

Besides these the location of the monuments, water table in the locality, seepage and leakage, negligence, ignorance, vandalism etc., affect the stone monuments very much.

Remedial Measures

When the monuments are affected by various agencies, it is necessary to adopt the remedial measures to control the defects. They are

1. Removal of biological growth (by the application of chemicals such as ammonia)
2. Consolidation of weathered area in stone (normally done with silanes or other polymers)
3. Removal of soluble salts (by poulticing-paper pulp treatment)
4. Application of fungicides (applying a dilute solution of Zinc silico fluoride)
5. Application of preservatives applying hydroxy silanes, poly vinyl acetate in solvents

As our monuments are of very large mostly and are continuously exposed to the dangers of the atmosphere any single action and a blanket measure as a solution is not possible; but the measures should be periodically regular. Even though the periodical remedies are quite expensive, it is worth doing because it is a labour of love for our worthwhile heritage and any neglect will lead to irreparable national as well as international loss of cultural and architectural heritage.

Repairs and Restoration Methods

Before the repair and restoration methods are described, it is essential to discuss about the criteria for intervention in a historical building. The general criteria can be as follows:

1. Reversibility
2. Improving the overall stability of the structure
3. Stabilising the foundation, if found necessary
4. Reduction on complete suppression of water circulation in the walls
5. Improving the cohesion of the material
6. Improving the cooperation between mortar and brick or stone

7. Giving consideration to the aesthetic effects of above actions

Before we consider modern repair methods, it is better to understand little about the historic strengthening methods. The historic strengthening methods used can be grouped as

1. Counterforts (Structural system constructed to strengthen the building)
2. Brace arches (arches constructed to strengthen buildings)
3. Propping (This is provided to support a structural element that is likely to collapse.
4. Ties (when the thrust due to arches or vaults are not adequately handled by the buttresses, it is better to provide ties with stainless steel).
5. Chains (In case of domes, which are facing cracking due to meridional tensile stresses the domes are strengthened by chains).

Modern Restoration Methods

The restoration methods have taken new dimensions and the modern restoration methods can be classified as follows:

1. Temporary strengthening
2. Grout injection
3. Stitching
4. Pre-stressing
5. Strengthening with steel and reinforced concrete.

Temporary Strengthening

In the case of damaged old buildings, when an emergency intervention is required and there is no time to do an investigation, temporary-strengthening measures can be adopted. Many methods of strengthening had been adopted by various builders such as ring anchor, steel collars, masonry masonry etc.

Grout Injection

Grouting can be done to damaged buildings in order

1. To strengthen loose mortar and masonry bond
2. To close cracks, gaps and voids inside the wall structure

3. To increase the load carrying capacity of original masonry
4. To make areas, which are strong enough, to take bigger forces due to changed use, loads or supports of new constructions.
5. To join reinforcing rods and pre-stressing cables and anchors with masonry as well as to protect steel members against corrosion.

All types of cement customary in the trade are suitable as injection materials. The success of grout injection depends on a sufficiently high water-cement ratio of the injection grout and a constant pressure of the grouting.

Stitching

Stitching as subsequent reinforcement happens where tension occurs which the masonry cannot withstand. Stitching is always connected with grout injection to form the bond between steel and masonry as well as to provide corrosion protection.

Pre-stressing

Old masonry is grouted and pre-stressed if strongly torn walls and pillars must be joined to regain their compressive strength, ability to sustain thrust and in addition to withstand tensile stress. The most frequently used stressing tendons are steel rods with through rolled thread ribs on both sides.

Strengthening with Steel and Reinforced Concrete

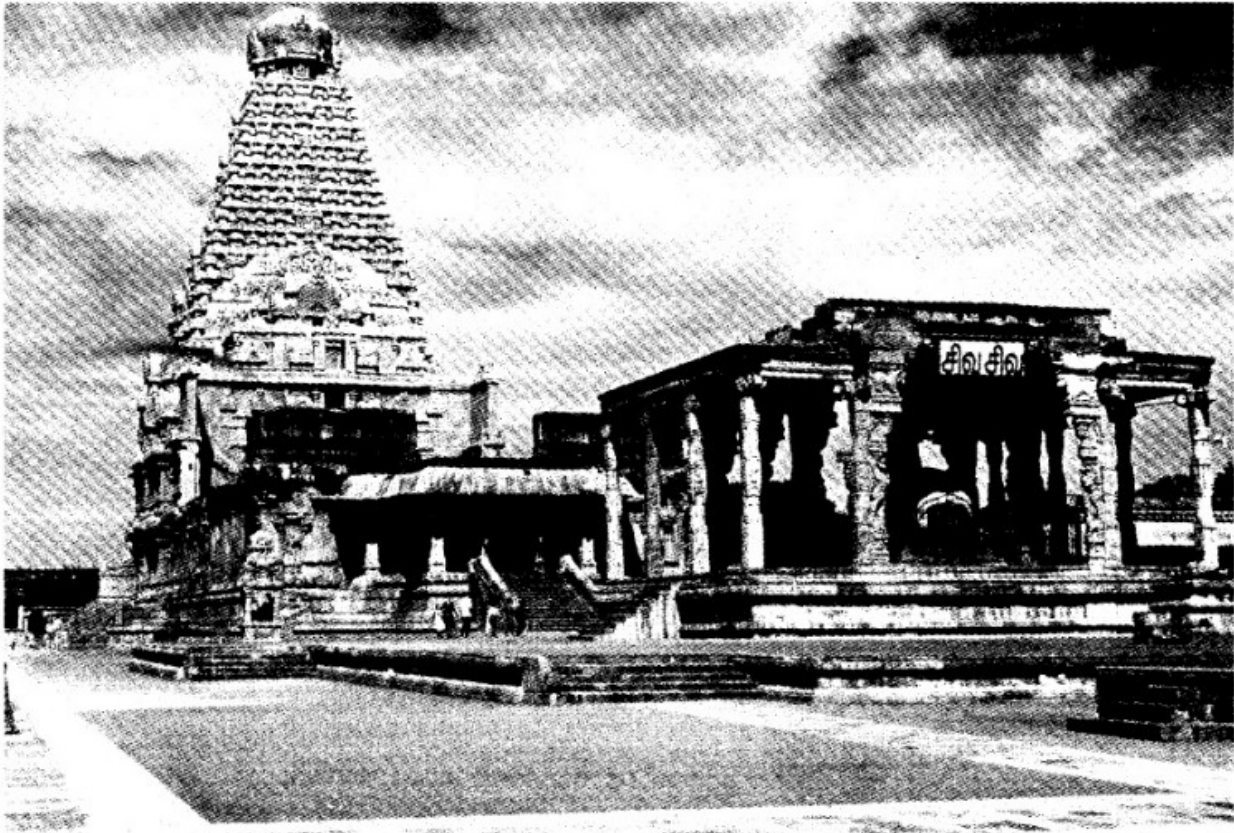
Some times it becomes necessary to strengthen the historic buildings with steel and reinforced concrete.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS

Even though Tamil Nadu is proud of thousands of monuments, there are lack of information about them to the public. The Tourism Department has brought out many hand outs for the benefit of the tourists in Tamil Nadu. They are not in the form of a book. This effort has made the authorities to make the information available to the tourists in the form of a handy guide about the monuments in Tamil Nadu. Many efforts have been taken by many scholars and administrators in Tamil Nadu to safe guard the monuments for posterity through publications and actual conservation work. Among the various programmes of conservation, preventive conservation is the most important one. There fore, the Department of Museums in Tamil Nadu had organised many training programmes and is conducting such programmes every year for the benefit of students and those who are working in departments related to the study and preservation, of monuments. The author of the book has spent most of the time in training people in conservation and restoration of our cultural heritage. Let us know more about the monuments and their preservation measures so that they may be preserved for posterity.

At one instance, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department allowed the Executive Officers to clean the temple walls by sand blasting. It is a deleterious method as it removed stone surfaces and also paintings, pointings etc., underneath. Therefore, the Department of Museums intervened and conducted four training programmes of chemical treatment as an alternate method for sand blasting at Chennai, Madurai, Salem and Trichy. Executive Officers, Archaeologists, Curators, Conservation Engineers, Southern Railway Engineers and Police Officials participated. The department of museums help to preserve our monuments too. All efforts should be taken to preserve all these monuments for posterity. Tourists have a great role in safeguarding the monuments while visiting them. Taking samples from the monuments, scribbling on the walls, damaging any part of the architecture should be totally avoided. People's Forum may be organised to safeguard them. Corporates may contribute to culture fund under 80C and help the governments to maintain them in the best way for our posterity.



DIRECTORY OF
HINDU TEMPLES

ADIKESAVAPERUMAL TEMPLE, SRIPERUMPUDUR

Location

Name of the Monumenta
Address

Adikesavaperumal Temple
Sriperumpudur, Chengalpattu district
PIN 602 105.
04111 262236

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

35 KM from Chennai Central RS.
½ KM from Sriperumpudur bus-stand.
It is along the Chennai-Bangalore Road.

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography /
videography allowed?
If so, charges.

6.30 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.30 PM.
Nil
Nil
Photographic charges: Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Religious-Living Hindu Temple
Commissioner, HR&CE, Chennai-600 034
Executive Officer, Sriperumpudur.

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

9th Century AD.
Chola and Vijayanagar Kings
Dravidian



Temple Gopura



Ramanuja

Importance

Antiquities

The Vijayanagar rulers constructed the *mantapas*. Tamil inscriptions belonging to the Vijayanagar rulers are found. A small temple car is available. Tanjore panel paintings depicting the life history of Ramanujar are displayed along the walls of the inner *prakara*. Utsavamurtis such as those of Perumal, Sridevi, Bhudevi, Ramanuja, Rama are available besides stone sculptures.

Sculptures

AIRAVATESWARA TEMPLE, DARASURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Airavateswara Temple

Address

Darasuram, Tanjore Dt.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

20 KM from Kumbakonam R. S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Darasuram Bus-stand

Route

Tanjore-Kumbakonam-Darasuram

Functioning

Timings

7.30 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the
Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological
Survey of India, Chennai - 600 008.
Tel : 044-25670396.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Director General of India, Archaeological
Survey of India, Janpath, New Delhi – 11.
Conservation Assistant, Big Temple,
Tanjore-613 001. Ph: 04632-230826.

Officer-in-charge

History

Period

12th Century AD

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Gopura



Horse Drawn charoit

Importance

Antiquities

The main *vimana* of the Airavateswara temple at Darasuram, an all-stone structure, rises no more than five storeys.

Sculptures

The pillared porch on the south simulates a wheeled chariot drawn by elephants. The temple has elaborate and effusive sculptural embellishment in the round and miniature narrative panels in relief. Loose sculptures are stored in the archaeological shed.

ALAGAR TEMPLE, MADURAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Alagar Temple

Address

Alagar P.O., Madurai.

Telephone

0452-2470228.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

21 KM from the Madurai Junction.

Distance from the Bus Stand

21 KM from Periyar bus stand.

Route

Madurai, Alagarkoil

Functioning

Timings

6.00 AM to 12.30 PM & 3.30 to 8.30 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Photography / videography charges.

Photographic charges Rs. 50/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Living-Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department, Chennai - 600 034.

Officer-in-charge

Deputy Commissioner and Executive Officer,
Madurai.

History

Period

12th to 18th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pandhyas, Vijayanagar kings, Banas and the
Madurai Nayaks.

Style of Architecture

It is in the Dravidian style. This is made out of
brick and lime mortar.



Alagar Temple

Importance

Antiquities

The main parts of the temple are the Raja Gopura, kalyanamantapa, vasantha mantapa and the Thirumalai Mannar Mantapa. Processional details on bronzes are available.

Sculptures

Thirumalai Nayak, his consorts, and his brother, Narasimha avatara of Vishnu, Krishna, Manmatha and Rathi, musical pillars and a lion pillar with a carved out stone ball with in the mouth of the lion.

ARDHANAREESWAR TEMPLE, THIRUCHENGODU

Location

Name of the Monument	Ardhanareswar Temple
Address	Thiruchengodu, Namakkal district
Telephone	04288-253269

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station	It is 10 KM from Erode railway station.
Distance from the Bus Stand	1 KM from Thiruchengodu bus stand.
Route	It is in between Salem and Erode.

Functioning

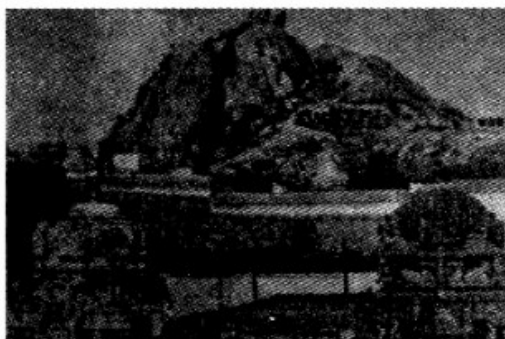
Timings	6.00 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.
Holidays	Nil
Entrance fee	Nil
Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.	Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument	Religious-Hindu-Living Temple
Controlling Authority	HR&CE Department, Chennai-600 035.
Officer-in-charge	Executive Officer, Thiruchengodu.

History

Period	7 th Century AD.
Dynasty	
Style of Architecture	Dravidian. It is constructed on a hillock.



Hill View of the Temple



Gopura of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities	It is one of the seven <i>Sivasthalas</i> . It has many bronze icons and <i>vahanas</i> . Siva and Parvathi are worshipped as one.
Sculptures	The <i>moolavar</i> and many sculptures on stone are found.

ARUNACHALEESWARAR TEMPLE, THIRUVANNAMALAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Arunachaleeswara Temple

Address

Thiruvannamalai,
Thiruvannamalai district - 606 601.
04175-224915

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from the Thiruvannamalai RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM

Route

65 KM from Trivandrum Air Port.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Yes

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Hindu – Living Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Endowments Board,
Chennai - 600 034

Officer-in-charge

Assistant Commissioner, Thiruvannamalai.

History

Period

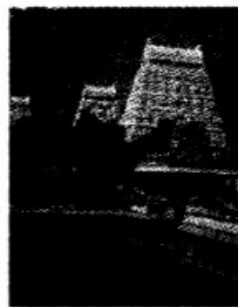
16th –17th Century AD.

Dynasty

Vijayanagar Kings

Style of Architecture

It is attractive because of its impressive architecture, paintings and sculptures.



Gopuras of the Annamalaiyar Temple

Importance

Antiquities

The corridor leading up to the sanctuary doorway is adorned with brass and glass lamps; an ornate brass frame decorates the doorway. Stone *linga* and metal images particularly of Saivite saints are housed in the colonnades.

Sculptures

One of the *gopuras* of the temple has 108 *karanas* sculptures. *Devakostha* in the niches of *gopuras* and relief sculptures in the same places.

AVINASHI LINGESWARAR TEMPLE, AVINASHI

Location

Name of the Monument Avinashi Lingeswarar Temple
 Address Avinashi, Coimbatore District.
 Telephone 04296-273113

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station 40 KM from Coimbatore RS.
 45 KM from Coimbatore Air Port.
 Distance from the Bus Stand ½ KM from Avinashi Bus-stand
 Route It is in between Erode and Coimbatore

Functioning

Timings 5.00 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM
 Holidays Nil
 Entrance fee Free
 Whether photography / videography
 allowed? If so, charges. Photographic Charges Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument Religious-Living Hindu Temple
 Controlling Authority Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
 Department, Chennai-600 034.
 Officer-in-charge Executive Officer

History

Period 12th Century AD.
 Dynasty Chola
 Style of Architecture Dravidian



*Gopura of the
Avinasilingesvara Temple*

Importance

Antiquities This is the biggest temple in Coimbatore District.
 Avinashi is also known as South India's Varanasi.
 The old temple car was damaged by fire. Now there
 is a new temple car in this temple.
 Sculptures There are some fine stone carvings in this temple.

AVUDAIAR KOIL, THIRUPERUNDURAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Avudaiar Koil

Address

Thiruperundurai,
Pudukottai District - 614 618
04371-233301

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

75 KM from Pudukottai.

13 KM from Aranthangi.

Distance from the Bus Stand

Very near the Thiruperunthurai bus stand

Route

It is on the Pudukottai-Aranthangi Road

Functioning

Year of Taking over by the Atheenam

It is under the Thiruvaduthurai Aatheenam

Timings

5.00 to 11.30 AM and 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed. Rs.10/- per camera

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Hindu Living temple

Controlling Authority

Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Temple Campus.

History

Period

9th Century AD/ Paintings-17th Century

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Gopura of the Avudayar Temple



Sculptured Pillar



Painting in the Ceiling

Importance

Antiquities

It is a very big temple with ornamental pillars, sculptures and paintings. The mantapas are made up of stones through out including the ceiling. The constellation is depicted on the stone threshold of Manickavasaga mantapa in which the missing of the star abhijith is depicted by a box.

Sculptures

There is no deity in the Sanctum sanctorum. Siva is worshipped with out any idol. The temple is facing to the South. The pillars are ornamental and are depicted with sculptures

BAKTHAVACHALA TEMPLE, THIRUKAZHUKUNRAM

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Bakthavachala Temple
Thirukazhukunram, Kanchipuram District
PIN. 603 109.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

15 KM from Chengalpattu RS.
½ KM from the bus-stand.
It is in between Chengalpattu and
Mamallapuram

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

5.00 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM
Nil
Free
Photographic Charges Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority

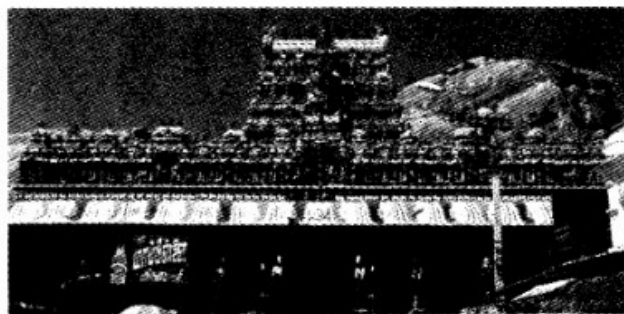
Religious-Living Hindu Temple
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department, Chennai - 600 034
Executive Officer, Thirukazhukunram

Officer-in-charge

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

12th Century AD.
Chola
Dravidian



View of the Temple with the Hillock

Importance

Antiquities
Sculptures

This temple is famous for an Eagle, which comes to the hillock and takes the food offered.
The bronze icons of the temple are very famous.
The Vishnu panel is of exquisite beauty.

BHUVARAGHASWAMY TEMPLE, SRIMUSHNAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Bhuvaraghaswamy Temple

Address

Srimushnam, Cuddalore Dt.

Telephone

04144-245000

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

The nearest railway station is Chidambaram.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Srimushnam bus-stand.

Route

It is in between Cuddalore and Chidambaram.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed. Rs. 10/-.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Hindu-Living Temple

Controlling Authority

HR&CE Department, Chennai-600 035.

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer

History

Period

12th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian architecture.



Gopura of the Temple with Flag Staff

Importance

Antiquities

Sculptures

The temple car of the temple is very famous. The bronze icons of the temple are also very famous. The Vishnu panel is of exquisite beauty.

BRIHADISVARA TEMPLE, TANJORE

Location

Name of the Monument

Brihadisvara Temple

Address

Tanjore, Tanjore district.

Telephone

04362-2308

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM. from Thanjavur R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

5 KM. from the new bus stand

Route

It is in the city, Thanjavur.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with the permission of the
Superintending Archaeologist Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Big Temple, Tanjore
Tel : 04362-230826.

History

Period

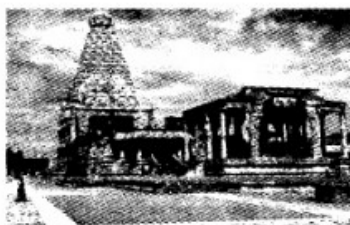
1009-1010 AD.

Dynasty

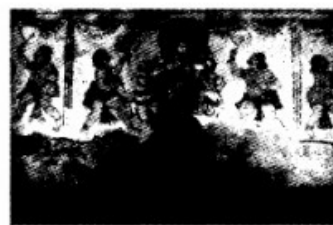
Chola, Raja Raja (985-1012 AD)

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Gopura and Mantapa



Wall Paintings

Importance

Antiquities

The temple is a repository of contemporary arts, crafts and ritual. The celebrated Thanjavur school of paintings of the Nayakas has a specialty though largely superimposed over the Chola murals. The Nayak painting have been stripped and displayed.

Sculptures

The nearly life size iconographic representations on the wall niches and inner passages include Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati and Bhikshatana, Virabhadra, Kalantaka, Natesa, Ardhanari and Alingana forms of the lower ambulatory inside are finest examples of Chola and later art.

CAVE TEMPLE, SITTANNAVASAL

Location

Name of the Monument

Cave Temple

Address

Sittannavasal, Pudukkottai District.

Telephone

04339-262352

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

15 KM from Pudukkottai.

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from the road.

Route

It is in between Pudukkottai and Viralimalai.

Functioning

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with the permission from the
Suprintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009.

Tel : 044-25670396.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Jain Temple

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Keeraur.

Tel : 04339-262352

History

Period

9th Century AD.

Dynasty

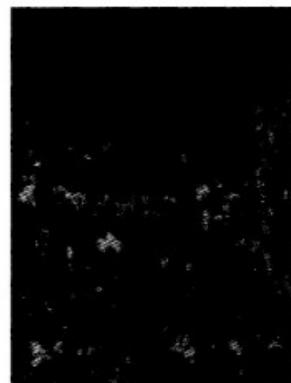
Pandhya

Style of Architecture

Rock-cut Temple



View of the Cave Temple



Wall Paintings

Importance

Antiquities

Wall paintings are found on the walls and ceiling.
Stone inscription in Brahmi is found.

Sculptures

The beds of the Jain monks are found.

CHANDRAPRABHA TEMPLE, THIRUPARUTHIKUNRAM, KANCHIPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Chandraprabha Temple

Address

Thiruparuthikunram, Chengalpattu District
PIN. 631502.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

7 KM from Kanchipuram RS.

70 KM from the Chennai Air Port.

Distance from the Bus Stand

7km. from Kanchipuram bus stand.

Route

It is on the banks of the Vegavathi river.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12 AM % 4.00 to 8.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.Permission from the Commissioner of
Archaeology, Chennai-600 113.

Tel : 044-28190020

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Jain Temple.

Controlling Authority

Commissioner of Archaeology.

Officer-in-charge

Commissioner of Archaeology.

History

Period

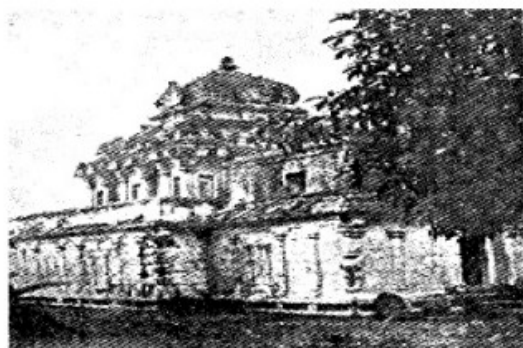
9th Century AD.

Dynasty

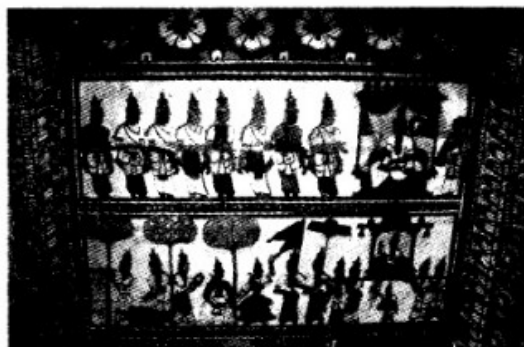
Pallava-Chola-Vijayanagara Kings

Style of Architecture

Pallavan-Dravidian



Chandra Prabha Temple



Ceiling Painting

Importance

Antiquities

There are ceiling paintings of the Vijayanagara type
in the *mandapa* of the temple.

Sculptures

There are bronze icons and marble sculptures of
Tirtankaras.

CHENNARAYAPERUMAL TEMPLE, ATHIYAMANKOTTAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Chennarayaperumal Temple

Address

Athiyamankottai, Dharmapuri District.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

4 KM from Dharmapuri

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Athiyamankottai bus-stand.

Route

It is on the Chennai Bangalore road.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

Timings

Sun rise to sun set

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photography is allowed with the permission from Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Director General of Archaeology, ASI Delhi

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, 4/64-A, Srinagar Colony, Narasothipatty, Salem-604 202.

Phone No. 0427-2447344

History

Period

12th Century AD.

Dynasty

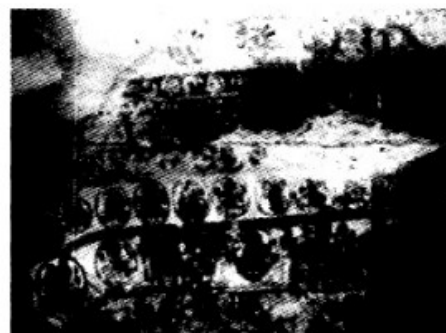
Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



External View of the Chennarayaperumal Temple



A View of Wall Painting in the Temple

Importance

Antiquities

Paintings from puranas are depicted.

Sculptures

Many sculptures both on the walls and inside the temple are found.

CHINNAYANPETTAI TANK

Location

Name of the Monument

Chinnayapettai Tank

Address

Chinnayapettai, Chengam Taluk,
Thiruvannamalai district.

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

40 KM from Thiruvannamalai R. S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

Buses are plying to Chinnayanpettai.

Route

It is in between Thiruvannamalai and Harur at
a distance of 40 KM from Thiruvannamalai.

Functioning

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the
Commissioner of Archaeology.
Chennai - 600 008. Tel : 044-28190020

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Tank

Controlling Authority

State Archaeology department

Officer-in-charge

Director of Archaeology,
Chennai-600 113.

History

Period

16th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chinnama Naick.

Style of Architecture

Relief work on the steps of the tank.



Chinnayanpettai Tank



Erotic Sculptures

Importance

Antiquities

Rock- cut sculptured tank with an area of 120
square feet constructed for the use of his daughter.

Sculptures

Shallow relief carvings of erotic nature on the
vertical sides of the steps of the tank, which was
constructed to use by Chinnaya Naicken's
daughter.

CHITRA SABHA, COURTALUM

Location

Name of the Monument

Chitra Sabha

Address

Courtalum, Tirunelveli district

Telephone

04633-2100138

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

10 KM from Tenkasi R. S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from the Courtalum Bus stand.

Route

Tirunelveli-Tenkasi-Courtalum

Functioning

Timings

6.00 AM to 6.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Commissioner, HR&CE, Chennai-600 034

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Courtalum

History

Period

12th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pandhya

Style of Architecture

Kerala



General View of the Chitra Sabha



A View of a Painted Panel

Importance

Antiquities

This temple is dedicated to Nataraja and decorated with paintings of rural deities and devotees, puranic stories and religious vents. This *sabha* is one of the five *sabhas* where Nataraja performed the cosmic dance.

Sculptures

Sculptures are found in the Mughamantapa. There is a gopura in the tank in front of the Chitra Sabha.

EASWARAN TEMPLE, ERODE

Location

Name of the Monument

Easwaran Temple

Address

Erode, Erode district.

Telephone

0424-2267578

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from Erode RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Bus-stand.

Route

It is in between the RS and BS.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photography:Rs.10/-.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

HR&CE Department, Chennai-34.

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Erode.

History

Period

9th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian. The gopura is five tiered one.



Gopura of the Easwaran Temple, Erode



Inscription which Tells about Renovation Work

Importance

Antiquities

It has 16 inscriptions on the walls of the temple.

Sculptures

The sculptures of Siva, Varaniammai and the 63 Nayanmars are very famous.

EKAMBAREESWARAR TEMPLE, KANCHIPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Ekambareswar Temple.

Address

Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu District

PIN 631 502.

Telephone

04112-222084

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

70 KM from Chennai Air Port.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from R.S. 1½ KM from B. S.

Route

It is in Kanchipuram

Functioning

Timings

6.00 PM to 12.30 AM & 4.00 to 9.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Living Temple.

Controlling Authority

Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Chennai - 600 034.

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Kanchipuram.

Tel : 04112-

History

Period

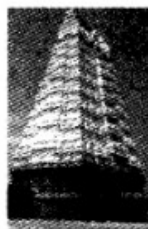
7th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pallava. It was renovated by the Pallavas, Chola and the Vijayanagar Kings

Style of Architecture

The 57 metre or 188 feet high Raja *gopura* is one of the tallest towers in South India. The temple has five spacious corridors and a beautiful 1,000-pillar hall.



Gopura



View of the Mango Tree

Importance

Antiquities

Krishna Devaraya built the sixty metre high tower. The ancient Mango tree is the *sthalaviruksha*. Paintings in the ceilings are found. There are inscriptions too.

Sculptures

The sculptures such as Ekambaranathar, a Linga, which contains 1008 Lingas, Vishnu, Nataraja etc., are worth mentioning.

FIVE RATHAS, MAHABALIPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Five Rathas

Address

Mamallapuram, Kanchipuram District.

Telephone

04114-242226

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

70 KM from the Chennai Central RS.

85 KM from the Meenambakkam Air Port.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from the Mahabalipuram bus stand

Route

58 KM from Chennai.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

Timings

From 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Rs. 5/-for Indians, Rs.150/- for Foreigners.

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the
Superintending Archaeologis Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Rock cut monument

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India.

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Mamallapuram-603 104.
Tel : 04114-242226

History

Period

7th-8th Century

Dynasty

Pallava

Style of Architecture

Proto-type of the Dravidian Temple architecture.
The monuments scooped out of natural rocks are
of monolithic type.



Five Rathas

Importance

Antiquities

As such there is no other antiquities except the
monolithic rock-cut temples.

Sculptures

There are five rathas. There is an elephant and a
bull separately cut out of monolithic rocks.

GOKARNESVARA TEMPLE, THIRUGOKARNAM, PUDUKOTTAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Gokarnesvara Temple

Address

Thirugokarnam, Pudukottai District.

PIN. 622 002.

Telephone

04322-236195

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

4 KM from Pudukottai RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the Pudukottai bus-stand.

Route

It is in the Pudukottai Tiruchirapalli road.

Functioning

Timings

9.00 AM to 12.00 noon & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photographic charges: Rs. 10/-.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Hindu Living Temple.

Controlling Authority

HR&CE, Chennai-600 034.

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Pudukottai.

Tel : 04322-221758

History

Period

9th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pandhya

Style of Architecture

Pandhya cave temple architecture.



A View of the Corridor in the Temple



Gangadhara Stone Sculpture

Importance

Antiquities

There are recorded inscriptions in this temple in Pallava-Grantha and old Tamil characters. The earliest Chola inscription in the temple belongs to the reign of Ranjakesari varman.

Sculptures

Bas-relief sculptures and Gangadhara is interesting.

GRAND ANAICUT, THIRUCHIRAPPALLI

Location

Name of the Monument

Grand Anaicut

Address

Kallanai, Thiruchirappalli district.

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

40 KM from the Tiruchirappalli RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from Kallanai bus stand.

Route

It is in between Trichy and Uraiyur.

Functioning

Timings

Sun rise to sun set.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular – Dam.

Controlling Authority

Public Works Department.

Officer-in-charge

Executive Engineer, Tiruchirappalli.

History

Period

2nd Century AD.

Dynasty

Karikal Chola

Style of Architecture

Made out of stone blocks.



A View of the Grand Anaicut

Importance

It is one of the engineering marvels of India. Made of stone, the dam is 329 metres long and 20 metres wide and still in use.

JALAKANDESWAR TEMPLE, VELLORE

Location

Name of the Monument

Jalakandeswarar Temple.

Address

Fort, Vellore-632 004.

Telephone

0416-220 693.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

7 KM from the Katpadi Railway Station.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Vellore bus-stand.

Route

It is about 135 KM from Chennai on the Chennai-Bangalore Road.

Functioning

Timings

6.00 AM to 12.00 Noon & 3.00 to 8.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography

Allowed on permission from the Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

allowed? If so, charges.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple.

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India.

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Fort,

Vellore-632004. Tel : 0416-220 693.

History

Period

16th Century.

Dynasty

Vijayanagar

Style of Architecture

It is an example of Dravidian style of architecture. The *gopura* has seven tiers and the top has seven *kalasas*. Sculptures monolithic beams and pillars support the Kalyana mandapa.



Gopura



Sculptured Pillar

Importance

Antiquities

Dwarapalakas are very famous. Sculptured pillars are very good.

Sculptures

Noteworthy sculptures in the *kalyana mandapa*, other *mandapas* and cloisters.

JAMBUKESWARAR TEMPLE, THIRUVANAIIKA

Location

Name of the Monument	Jambukeswarar Temple
Address	Thiruvanaika, Thiruchirappalli – 620 005.
Telephone	0431-2230257

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station	5 KM from the Thiruchirappalli Junction. 9 KM from the Trichy Air-port.
Distance from the Bus Stand	5 KM from the Central bus-stand.
Route	On the northern bank of the river Cauvery.

Functioning

Year of Construction	10 th Century AD.
Timings	5.00 – 11.00 AM & 4.00 – 9.00 PM.
Holidays	Nil
Entrance fee	Nil
Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.	Photography: Rs. 10/- Videography: Rs. 50/-

Administration

Type of the Monument	Religious – Hindu – Living Temple
Controlling Authority	Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Chennai - 600 034.
Officer-in-charge	Executive Officer.

History

Period	10 th Century AD
Dynasty	Chola
Style of Architecture	Dravidian

Importance

Antiquities	This temple has the antiquities such as the <i>vahanas</i> , and other vessels useful for the daily worship.
Sculptures	The important sculptures in the temple are the submerged <i>linga</i> , sculpture of an elephant worshipping the <i>linga</i> under a Naval tree and other sculptures.

KAILASANATHA TEMPLE, KANCHIPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Kailasanatha Temple

Address

Kanchipuram, Kanchipuram District

PIN 631 502.

Telephone

04112-222702

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

4 KM from Kanchipuram RS. 70 KM from Chennai Air Port.

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from the bus stand

Route

It is in between Chengalpattu and Arkonam

Functioning

Timings

8.00 to 12 AM & 4.00 to 6.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed on permission from the Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai 600 009

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India.

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Vaikunthaperumal

Temple, North Mada Street,

Kanchipuram-631502. Ph: 04112-22 702.

History

Period

8th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pallava, Raja Simha and Mahendra

Style of Architecture

The temple is noted for its architecture. It is built of sandstone. The style of the architecture is Dravidian one. There are 58 small shrines situated around the main shrine as a compound wall.



Inner View of the Temple with the Cells



Mural Painting in One of the Cells

Importance

Antiquities

There are many sculptures found. Paintings of Fresco style adorn the inner walls of the shrines.

Sculptures

Vishnu sculptures, such as Somaskanda, Narasimha, bulls are some to mention.

KAILASANATHAR TEMPLE, THARAMANGALAM

Location

Name of the Monument
Address
Telephone

Kailasanathar Temple
Tharamangalam P.O., Salem district
04290-252100

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

33 KM from Salem railway station
½ KM from the Tharamangalam bus-stand
It is near the Salem Steel Plant.

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

6.00 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.
Nil
Nil
Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Religious-Hindu-Living temple
HR&CE Department, Chennai-600 035.
Executive Officer, Tharamangalam

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

13th Century AD. Hoysala period.
Getty Mudali built the *mantapa*.
Dravidian architecture.



Gopura of the Temple



Sculptured Pillar

Importance

Antiquities

Figures of tortoise, fish, monkey, crocodile are carved out on the walls and granite roof. The *gopura* is bedecked with stucco figures.

Sculptures

Statues of Rathi-Manmatha, Vali-Sugriva of the epic Ramayana and Yali with rotating stone ball in its mouth-the rotating lotus flowers in the ceiling are some of the beautiful sculptures.

KAMAKSHIAMMAN TEMPLE, DHARMAPURI

Location

Name of the Monument

Kamakshi Amman Temple

Address

Fort, Dharmapuri – 636 702.

Telephone

04342-264924

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

1KM from the Dharmapuri R. S.

17 KM from the Morappur R. S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from the Dharmapuri Bus stand.

Route

It is on the Chennai-Vellore-Krishnagiri Road

Functioning

Timings

6.00 12.00 AM & 4.30 –8.30 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Yes. Only on permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Hindu Living Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

Department, Chennai - 600 034.

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer

History

Period

About 7th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pallava, Nolamba, Chola and Vijayanagar

Style of Architecture

Dravidian. It is the only Nolamba architected temple in Tamil Nadu.



Gopura of the Temple



Hanging Pillar

Importance

Antiquities

The temple has 18 corners in which 18 elephant sculptures are bearing the load of the temple. It consists of inscriptions of the Chola. There is a hanging pillar on the temple

Sculptures

The temple is made out of granite stones. All around the temple in the athisthana sculptural designs depicting the story of Ramayana is found.

KAMAKSHI AMMAN TEMPLE, KANCHIPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Kamakshi Amman Temple

Address

Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu district

PIN 631 502.

Telephone

04112-222609

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from Kanchipuram RS. 70 KM from the Chennai Air Port.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Kanchipuram bus stand

Route

It is in between Changalpattu and Arkonam railway route.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.30 AM & 4.00 to 9.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Not allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple.

Controlling Authority

Kanchi Kamkodi Peedam.

Officer-in-charge

Sankarachariar.

History

Period

14th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola and Vijayanagar.

Style of Architecture

Dravidian style.



View of the Gopuras along with the Tank



Kamakshi Amman

Importance

Antiquities

This is one of the holy places of Sakthi worship in India. The other places are Madurai and Varanasi. The *vimanas* over the Kamakshi and Adisankara are covered with gold.

Sculptures

Sculptures of Kamakshi, Adisankara, Ardhanarishwara, Annapoorani etc., are some to mention.

KAPALEESWARAR TEMPLE, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Kapaleeswarar Temple

Address

Mylapore, Chennai-600 028

Telephone

044-24941670

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

5 KM from Central Station.

½ KM from the Luz RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

5 KM from the Central Bus-stand

Route

It is in between Parry's Corner and Adyar.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photographic Charges Rs. 25/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

Department, Chennai-600034

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Mylapore, Chennai.

History

Period

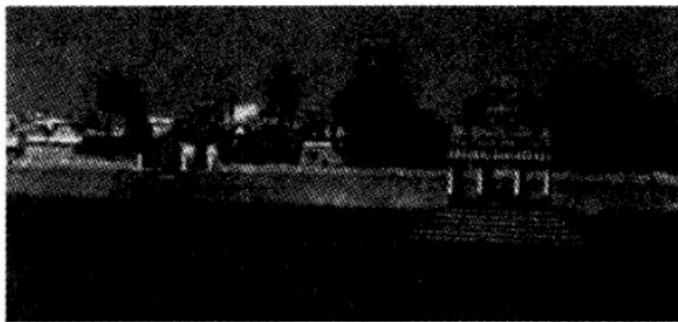
8th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pallavas and later by the Cholas

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



General View of the Temple and Tank



View of the Gopura

Importance

Antiquities

This temple is dedicated to Siva. In the courtyard, there is a small shrine depicting goddess Parvathi in the form of Peacock, worshipping Siva, under the old Punnai tree.

Sculptures

This temple has some beautiful sculptures, among which the bronze idols of 63 Saivite Saints, which adorn the outer courtyard, are rare specimens.

KASI VISWANATHAR TEMPLE, TENKASI

Location

Name of the Monument

Kasi Viswanathar Temple,

Address

Tenkasi, Tirunelveli district.

Telephone

04633-222373

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

½ KM from Tenkasi RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from Tenkasi bus stand

Route

It is in between Tirunelveli and Courtalum

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

15th Century

Timings

4.00 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photographic Charges Rs.10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department, Chennai - 600 034.

Officer-in-charge

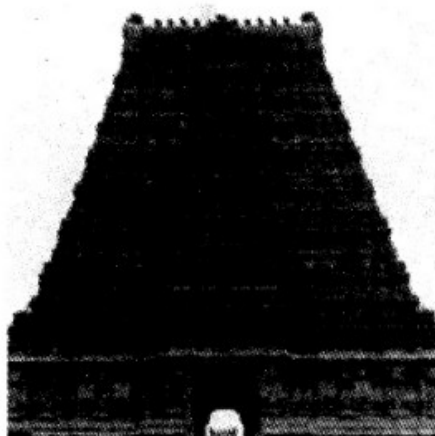
Executive office, Tenkasi

Dynasty

Vijayanagar Kings

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Gopura of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities

This place is Kasi in the South.

Sculptures

The flagstaff of the temple is noteworthy for its sculptural beauty and is 400 years old.

KILVALAI PREHISTORIC CAVE PAINTINGS

Location

Address Kilvalai Villupuram district

Telephone -

Accessibility

Railway station – distance 25 KM from Villupuram RS

Bus stand – distance 15 KM from Tirukoilur bus-stand

Route On the main road from Villupuram-Vellore

Functioning

Timings Sun-rise to sun-set

Holidays No holidays.

Entrance fee Free.

Photographic charges Nil. Permission must be obtained from the Commissioner of Archaeology, Chennai-600 008. Tel: 044-2819 0020

Videographic charges Nil. Permission must be obtained from the Commissioner of Archaeology, Chennai-600 008. Tel: 044-2819 0020

Administration

Type of Monument Prehistoric painting

Controlling authority Commissioner of Archaeology, Chennai-600 008.
Tel: 044-2819 0020

Officer-in-charge Archaeological Officer

History It is a prehistoric painting on rock surface.

History

Period Pre-historic

Dynasty Pre-historic

Style Primitive red ochre drawings



Blood Rock Kilvalai



Rock Painting Kilvalai

Importance

Antiquities

Paintings Human figures with red ochre. This rock is called blood rock by the locals.

MAGUDALINGESWAR TEMPLE, KODUMUDI

Location

Name of the Monument

Magudalingeswar Temple

Address

Kodumudi-638 151. Erode district.

Telephone

04204-222375

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

1 KM from Kodumudi RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ from the Kodumudi bus stand.

Route

It is in between Erode and Karur.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photography: Rs. 10/-.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple.

Controlling Authority

HR&CE Department, Chennai-600 034.

Officer-in-charge

Assistant Commissioner, Erode.

History

Period

9th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Nataraja Bronze

Importance

Antiquities

Magudalingeswarar, Nataraja bronze icons.

Sculptures

Sculptures of Linghodbhava, Dwarapalakas

MARGABANTHISWARA TEMPLE, VIRINCHIPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Margabanthiswara Temple
Vrinchipuram - 632 104.
Vellore District.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

20 KM from Katpadi Railway Station
½ KM from Vrinchipuram Bus-stand.
It is in between Vellore and Ambur.

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.
Nil
Free
Photographic charges Rs. 10/-

Administration

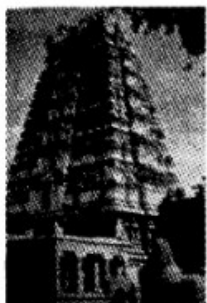
Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Religious-Living Hindu Temple
HR&CE Department, Chennai-600 034.
Executive Officer, Virinchipuram

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

12th Century AD.
Chola
Dravidian



Gopura of the Temple



Lion-faced Tank

Importance

Antiquities

The lion faced *Simhakulam* tank is considered to be very sacred. It contains many Chola period stone inscriptions. It consists of paintings of early part of 20th Century AD.

Sculptures

Pillars contain relief figures.

MEENAKSHI SUNDARESWARAR TEMPLE, MADURAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple.

Address

Maduarai-625 001

Telephone

0452-2744360

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from Madurai Junction

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from Periyar Bus Stand

Route

Nethaji Road.

Functioning

Timings

6.30 AM -12.30 AM & 4.00 PM - 9.00PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Photography/videographic charges.

Photographic Charges Rs 30/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Living Temple

Controlling Authority

Religious - Hindu & Charitable Endowments
Department, Chennai - 600 034.

Officer-in-charge

Joint Commissioner and Executive Officer

History

Period

12th to 18th Century.

Dynasty

Pandhya, Vijayanagar and Nayak Kings.

Style of Architecture

Dravidian Style of architecture made of brick and lime plaster. It belongs to the Pandhya and Vijayanagar kings. The Nayaks constructed the gopuras, halls, pillars and sculptures. The southern *gopura* is the tallest one (160 feet). There are many pillared mandapas.



View of the Gopuras



Menakshi Kalyanam

Importance

Antiquities

The ornamental rings carved on a single stone in a chain at the four corners are the special feature. Ceiling paintings, Tanjore paintings, utsavamurties, are worth seeing. Beautiful sculptures of various forms of Siva, such as Kalarimurti, Arthanarishwar, Veenadhara, Dhakshinamurti, Bikshadanamurti, Gajasamharamurti, Alinganamurti, Gangadhara are fine masterpieces of Tamil art.

Sculptures

MURUGAN TEMPLE, CHENNIMALAI

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Murugan Temple, Chennimalai
Chennimalai, Erode taluk,
Erode district - 638 051.
04282-235100

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

30 KM from Erode R.S.
Near the Chennimalai bus stand.
Erode – Perundurai -Eangoor-Chennimalai -
Kangayam

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

5.00 to 11 AM & 4.00 to 7.00 PM
No holiday
No entrance fee

Photographic Ticket Rs. 5/-

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority

Religious – Hindu Living Temple
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department, Chennai - 600 034.
Executive Officer, Chennimalai

Officer-in-charge

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

15th Century AD.
Vijayanagar King
Dravidian Architecture



Front View of the Temple



Bronze Icon

Importance

Antiquities

Temple car, steps to the hillock temple is available.

Sculptures

Valli, Deivanai and Murugan icons are worth seeing.

MURUGAN TEMPLE, THIRUTTANI

Location

Name of the Monument

Murugan Temple

Address

Thirutani, Thiruvallur district.

Telephone

04118-285225

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

75 KM from Chennai

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from Thiruttani bus-stand.

Route

It is in between Thiruvallur and Sholinghur.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photographic charges: Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Commissioner, HR&CE, Chennai-600 034.

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Thirutani.

History

Period

12th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



View of Tiruttani Murugan Temple



Muruga with Valli & Deivanai

Importance

Antiquities

This is one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya.

Situated on a hilltop. This hill has 365 steps.

Sculptures

Muruga with peacock.

MUVARKOIL, KODUMBALUR

Location

Name of the Monument

Muvar Koil

Address

Kodumbalur, Iluppur Taluk,
Pudukkottai District.

Telephone

04333-274205

Accessibility

Distance from the Trichy Air-port

42 KM from Tiruchirappalli Air-port

Distance from the Bus Stand

40 KM from the Pudukkottai bus stand.

Route

It is in between Trichy and Madurai.

Functioning

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Rs. 2/-

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

With permission from the Superintending
Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai-600009.
Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Hindu Temple.

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India.

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Keeranur

History

Period

10th Century AD.

Dynasty

Built by Boodhi Vikramakesari

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



View of the Muvar Temple



Kalarimurti Stone Sculpture

Importance

Antiquities

Sculptures

The *vimana* is three tiered. This *vimana* is prior to the *vimanas* in Tanjore and Gangaikonda Cholapuram. Beautiful sculptures of various forms of Siva, such as Kalarimurti, Arthanarishwar, Veenadhara Dhakshinamurti, Bikshadana murti, Gajasamharamurti, Alinganamurti, Gangadhara are fine masterpieces of Tamil art.

NACHIYAR TEMPLE, TRICHY

Location

Name of the Monument

Nachiyar Temple

Address

Uraiyur, Thiruchirappalli – 620 003.

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM from the Thiruchirappalli Junction.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the Trichy Central bus stand.

Distance from the nearest airport.

8 KM from the Thiruchirappalli air port.

Functioning

Timings

6-11 AM & 4-9 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photographic charges Rs. 20/-

Videographic charges Rs. 100/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Hindu – Living temple.

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

Department, Chennai - 600 034.

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer.

History

Period

13th to 15th Centuries.

Dynasty

Chola and Naick.

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Gopura of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities

Paintings depicting Ramayana are available.

Sculptures

Sculptures of exquisite beauty are available.

NATARAJA TEMPLE, CHIDAMBARAM

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Nataraja Temple,
Chidambaram, Cudalore District.
PIN 608 001

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from Chidambaram R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from the Bus-stand.

Route

It is between Cuddalore-Mayavaram main line.

Functioning

Timings

6.00-11.30 AM. & 4.00 to 8.30 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Photography / videography charges.

Not allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Hindu – Living temple.

Controlling Authority

Controlled by the Podhu Deekshidhar Trust

Officer-in-charge

Manager.

History

Period

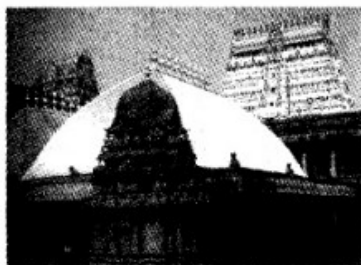
10th and 17th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola and Vijayanagar kings.

Style of Architecture

Dravidian. It is noted for its architectural treasures. It is shaped like a chariot. The roof of the sanctum sanctorum is covered with gold plates by the Cholas. The Vijayanagara rulers constructed the northern *gopura*.



*Gold Plated Ceiling
and the Gopuras*



Manmada with Consorts

Importance

Antiquities

The Nataraja bronze icon is very famous. The thousand-pillared *mantapa* is of the Chola period.

Sculptures

The roof of the sanctum sanctorum is replete with carvings of figures of warriors mounted on horses and elephants. On the pillars in the centre of the hall are carved royal portraits of the Nayak family that were responsible for the building of the temple.

NELLAIAPPAR TEMPLE, THIRUNELVELI

Location

Name of the Monument

Kanthimathi Nellaiappar Temple

Address

Town, Tirunelveli

Telephone

0462-2339910

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

4 KM from Tirunelveli Junction

Distance from the Bus Stand

4 KM from Tirunelveli bus stand

Route

It is in between Thirunelveli Junction and Pettai.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable

Endowments Department, Chennai - 600 034

Tel : 044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer,

History

Period

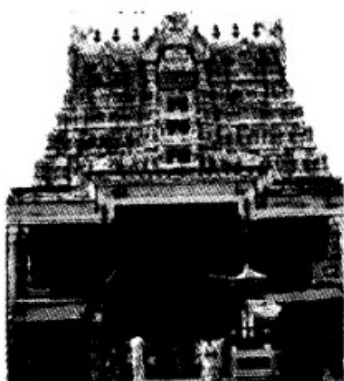
12th Century AD.

Dynasty

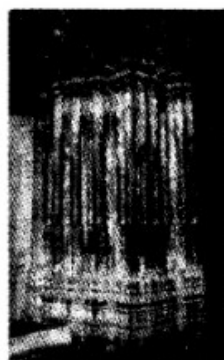
Pandhya

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Gopura and Entrance



Musical Pillar

Importance

Antiquities

Sculptures

Rare jewels, vahanas and the temple car

The Golden Lily Tank, Musical Pillars, Thousand Pillared Hall, stone and lime mortar sculptures are worth seeing

PADALEESWARAR TEMPLE, CUDDALORE

Location

Name of the Monument

Padaleeswarar Temple

Address

Thirupathiripuliyur, Cuddalore-607 002.

Telephone

04142-236728

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

1 KM from Thirupathiripuliyur

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from the Cuddalore bus stand.

Route

It is in between Panrutti and Pondicherry

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed but with permission

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable

Endowments Department

Chennai - 600 034. Tel : 044-28334811

Executive Officer

Officer-in-charge

History

Period

12th Century AD.

Dynasty

The entrance *gopura* belongs to the Chola period.

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



View of the Temple with Tank



Gopura of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities

Bronze icons are found large in number. Paintings are found in the ceiling of the *mantapa*

Sculptures

The sculptures in the pillars are worth seeing.

PATTEESWARASAMY TEMPLE, PERUR.

Location

Name of the Monument

Arulmigu Patteeswaraswamy Temple

Address

Perur, Coimbatore – 641 010.

Telephone

0422 – 2607 991.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

6 KM from the Coimbatore Junction.

Distance from the Bus Stand

10 KM from the Coimbatore Central bus stand.

Route

It is on the Siruvani from Coimbatore Road.

Functioning

Timings

5.45 AM-1 PM & 4.00 – 9.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil.

Entrance fee

Nil.

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Hindu – Living temple.

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable

Endowments Department.

Chennai - 600 034. Tel : 044-28334811

Executive Officer.

Officer-in-charge

History

Period

7th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola, Hoysala, Vijayanagar and the Nayak.

Style of Architecture

Dravidian.



Gopura



Dancing Nataraja

Importance

Antiquities

Big and small temple cars. Bronze icons, Eravapanai (Undying palmyra) and Piravapuli (Un-germinating tamarind). Many inscriptions are worth seeing. In the ceiling a series of paintings are seen.

Sculptures

The Kanagasabhai presents a unique collection of stone sculpture carvings, the like of which is not found elsewhere. Two rows of ten pillars have exquisite carvings of the manifestations of Siva. In the ceiling, a series of stone made chains, snakes, lotus are found in the centre.

RAMANATHASWAMY TEMPLE, RAMESWARAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Ramanathaswamy Temple

Address

Rameswaram

Telephone

0473-221223

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from the Rameswaram R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the bus-stand.

Route

It is in between Rameswaram and Cuddalore.

Functioning

Timings

5.00-11 AM & 4.00-9.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Photography / videography charges.

Photography: Rs. 20/-, Videography: Rs. 50/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Hindu – Living Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department, Chennai - 600 034.

Tel: 044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer

History

Period

12th Century AD.

Dynasty

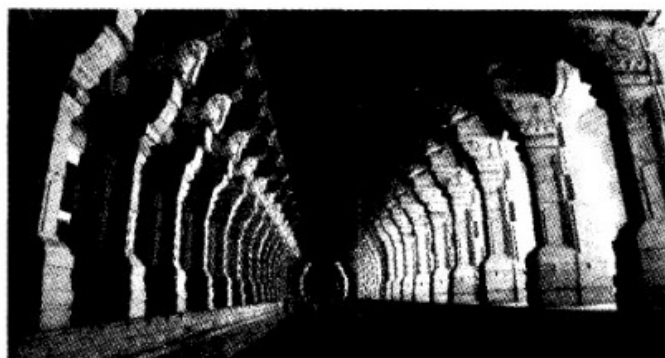
Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Gopura of the Temple



Corridor of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities

It has got stone inscriptions. The ceilings of the corridors are having paintings.

Sculptures

It is renowned for its magnificent corridors with massive sculptured pillars. The corridor is the longest in India. East-West 197 M. South - North 133 M. Height of the gopura is 38.4 M.

SANGAMESWARAR TEMPLE, BHAVANI

Location

Name of the Monument

Address

Sangameswarar Temple

Bhavani Kuduthurai, Bhavani, 638 302.

Erode district.

04256-230192

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

Distance from the Bus Stand

Route

15 KM from the Erode R.S.

It is 1 KM from the Bhavani bus-stand.

It is in between the two rivers in Bhavani.

Functioning

Year of construction

7th century AD.

Timings

6.00 AM to 12.30 PM. & 4.00 to 8.30 PM.

Holidays

Nil.

Entrance fee

Nil.

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Yes, allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Hindu – Living temple.

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable

Endowments Department.Chennai -600 034.

Tel :044-28334811

Executive Officer.

Officer-in-charge

History

Period

7th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pallava, Chola, Getty Mudali

Style of Architecture

Dravidian – Getti Mudali



Gopura of the Temple



Sculptured Pillar

Importance

Antiquities

Vannathadukku and vadamaalai, the official symbol of the Getti Mudalis.

Sculptures

Getti Mudali and his wives are depicted. *Dwarapalakas* of the Pallava period are found. Many sculptures are depicted in the pillars of the *mandapas*.

SANKARANARAYANAR TEMPLE, SANKARANKOIL

Location

Name of the Monument

Sankaranarayanar Temple

Address

Sankarankoil, Tirunelveli district.

Telephone

04636-222265

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

½ KM from Sankarankoil RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Sankarankoil bus stand.

Route

It is 50 KM from Srivilliputhur on the road to Tirunelveli.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photography: Rs. 10/-.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

HR&CE Department, Chennai-600 034.

Tel : 044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer.

History

Period

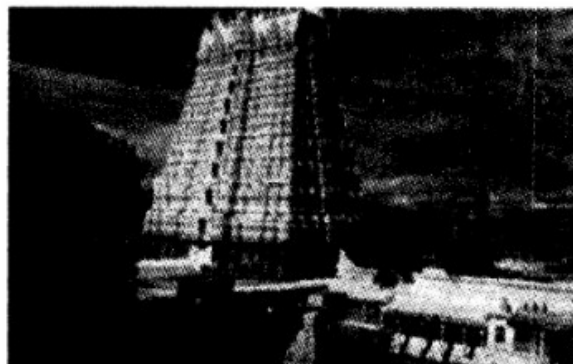
12th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pandhya

Style of Architecture

Dravidian and Kerala



Gopuras of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities

The *rajagopura* is 135 feet high. The *mugamandapa* has many paintings both of ancient and modern.

Sculptures

The three stages of Vishnu are depicted very nicely. Nataraja, Sivagami, Karaikkal Ammaiar, Narasimha etc.

SENTHILANDAVAR TEMPLE, THIRUCHENDUR

Location

Name of the Monument

Senthilandavar Temple

Address

Thiruchendur, Tuticorin District.

Telephone

04639-2442221

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from Thiruchendur R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from Thiruchendur bus stand

Route

In between Tuticorin and Manappadu in the south of Tuticorin. It is 48 KM from Thirunelveli

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 11.30 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable

Endowments Department, Chennai - 600 034

Tel : 044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer/Joint Commissioner

History

Period

12th Century AD.

Dynasty

Ukkira Pandhya

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



View of the Temple with the Gopuras

Importance

Antiquities

There are inscriptions belonging to the second Varaguna Pandhya. There are three temple cars in Thiruchendur.

Sculptures

Standing posture of Muruga.

SHORE TEMPLE, MAHABALIPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Shore Temple

Address

Mahabalipuram

Telephone

04114-242224

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

70 KM from Chennai Central R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Mahabalipuram Bus Stand

Route

Chennai-Mahabalipuram along the East Coast Road.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

8.00 AM to 8.00 PM.

Timings

No holidays

Holidays

Entrance fee

Rs.5/- for Indian, Rs. 150/- for Foreigners

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed only on permission from the superintending Archaeologist, Fort, St. George, Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-non living.

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Mamallapuram-603 104. Ph: 915-42226.

History

Period

7th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pallava

Style of Architecture

Dravidian and Gangara style



A View of the Shore Temple



Mini Shrine

Importance

Antiquities

The Vishnu is in the declining posture. The Kalasa and the *linga* are made out of basalt.

Sculptures

A *Varaha*, *nandi* are worth seeing

SIKHANATHA TEMPLE, KUDUMIANMALAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Sikhanatha Temple

Address

Kudumianmalai, Pudukkottai district.

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

16 KM from Pudukkottai

Distance from the Bus Stand

Near the bus stop at Kudumianmalai.

Route

Pudukkottai Road

Functioning

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

With permission from the Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 034 Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Keeranur

Tel : 04339-262352

History

Period

Cave Temple-8th Century AD.

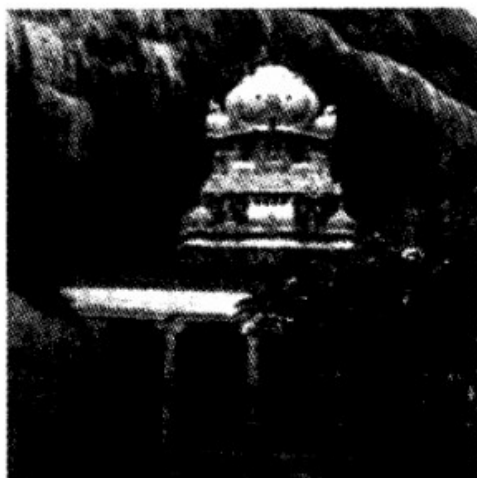
Structural Temple-9th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pandhya

Style of Architecture

Pandhya Cave Architecture



View of the Temple



A Lady Figure

Importance

Antiquities

Inscription on musical treatise. This is the only one of its kind.

Sculptures

Beautiful sculptures of 17th Century AD.

SIVA AND VISHNU CAVE TEMPLES, MALAYADIPATTI

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Siva and Vishnu Cave Temples
Malaiadippatti, Pudukkottai district.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

30 KM from Pudukkottai RS.
30 KM Pudukkottai bus-stand.
In the Pudukkottai-Keeranur-Killukkottai

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Nil
Nil
Free
Allowed with permission from the
Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 002. Tel : 044-25670396.

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Religious-Hindu Temple.
Archaeological Survey of India.
Conservation Assistant, Keeranur.
Tel : 04339-262352

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

9th Century AD.
Pandhya-Mutharaia
Rock-cut architecture.



View of the Temples

Importance

Antiquities
Sculptures

17th Century paintings in Vishnu Cave.
Mahishasuramardhani panel in Siva Cave is
interesting.

SIVA TEMPLE, GANGAIKONDACHOLAPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument Siva Temple
 Address Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Perambalur district.
 Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station 35 KM from Kumbakonam
 Distance from the Bus Stand It is on the Gangaikonda Cholapuram main road
 On the Chidambaram- Ariyalur road.

Route -

Functioning

Timings 5.00 AM to 12.00 Noon, 4.00 to 8.30 PM
 Holidays Nil
 Entrance fee Nil
 Photography / videography charges. Allowed, but with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument Religious – Hindu – Living Temple
 Controlling Authority Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George,
 Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396
 Officer-in-charge Conservation Assistant, Big Temple,
 Tanjore-613 001. Ph: 04362-230826

History

Period 10th Century AD.
 Dynasty Chola, Rajendra-I
 Style of Architecture Dravidian. This temple is noted for its
 massiveness.



A View of the Temple along with the Well



Devakosta Panel

Importance

Antiquities A big *Nandhi* in front of the temple made of brick and mortar, a lion headed well with a flight of steps leading to the water level and gigantic *Dwarapalakas* are the other special features of this temple. The temple *gopura* is 53 metres high.
 Sculptures Beautiful Chola period sculptures such as Harihara, Gangadhara, Ardhanari, Saraswati etc., are seen around the temple in the *Devakostas*.

SRIRANGANATHASWAMY TEMPLE, SRIRANGAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Address

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

Distance from the Bus Stand

Route

Functioning

Timings

Holidays

Entrance fee

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Controlling Authority

Officer-in-charge

History

Period

Dynasty

Style of Architecture

Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple

Srirangam, Trichirappalli – 620 006.

0431-2432246

5 KM from Thiruchirappalli Junction and ½ KM from the Srirangam R.S.

Close to the Srirangam bus stand.

On the north bank of the river Cauvery.

6-11 AM & 4 -9 PM

Nil

Nil

Photography allowed for Rs. 20/-. But the deity in the sanctum sanctorum is not allowed.

Videography charges Rs.100/-.

Religious-Hindu- Living temple.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

Department, Chennai -600 034.

Tel : 044-28334811

Joint Commissioner, HR&CE, Srirangam.

8th Century AD.

Early Chola

Dravidian. This *rajagopura* is one among the 21 gopuras, with 72-metre height. It was constructed only in 1987. The *gopura* is 13 tiered. It is the biggest temple complex.



Gopura of the Temple



Sculptured Pillar

Importance

Antiquities

Sculptures

Stone sculptures of exquisite beauty are available. Paintings are also available on the walls. There is a museum inside the temple premises.

Hoysala sculptures are of unique nature.

SUBRAMANYA TEMPLE, THIRUPPARANKUNRAM

Location

Name of the Monument	Subramanya Temple,
Address	Thirupparankunram, Madurai-5.
Telephone	0452-2882248
Accessibility	
Distance from the Railway Station	8 KM from the Madurai Junction.
Distance from the Bus Stand	28 KM from Madurai Periyar bus stand.
Route	Madurai -Thirumangalam Road.

Functioning

Timings	6.00 AM to 12.30PM & 4.00 - 9.00 PM.
Holidays	Nil
Entrance fee	Nil
Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.	Nil

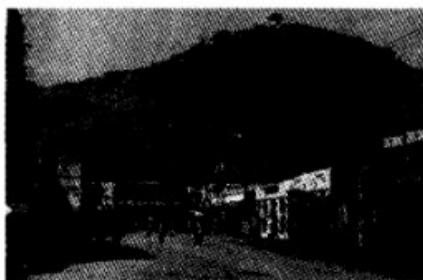
Administration

Type of the Monument	Religious-Hindu-Living temple.
Controlling Authority	Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Chennai - 600 034 Tel : 044-28334811 Executive Officer.

Officer-in-charge

History

Period	8 th Century to 17 th Century AD.
Dynasty	Early Pandhyas, Later Pandhyas and Madurai
Nayaks.	
Style of Architecture	Dravidian Architecture. Brick and mortar structure. The sanctum sanctorum is a carved out temple. There are ten massive granite pillars in the entrance hall.



Subramanya Temple

Importance

Antiquities	The Subramanya's temple is made out of five caves.
Sculptures	The main sculptures in the cave temple are Subramanya, Vinayaga and Durga. The important sculptures depicted in the pillars are the marriage scene of Muruga with Deivayanai, portrait sculptures of Rani Mangammal and Vijayaranga Chokkanathar.

SUNDARESHWAR TEMPLE, THIRUKATTALAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Sundareswar Temple

Address

Thirukattalai, Pudukkottai District.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

5 KM from the Pudukkottai railway station.

Distance from the Bus Stand

5 KM from the Pudukkottai bus stand.

Route

It is 5 KM to the east of Pudukkottai.

Functioning

Timings

7.00 AM to 12.00 Noon & 4.00 to 8.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the Commissioner, H.R. & CE., Chennai - 600 034.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Living temple.

Controlling Authority

Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Chennai - 600 034.

Tel : 044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer.

History

Period

871-907 AD, Aditya Chola.

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

It belongs to the Dravidian style of architecture. The *gopura* is two tiered.



View of the Temple



Bairava Sculpture

Importance

Antiquities

There are 12 stone inscriptions belonging to the period of Chola, Chera and Pandya dynasties.

Sculptures

In the *gopura* sculptures of Bikshadanamurthi, Varaha, Vishnu, Brahma etc., are present. In the outer *mandapa* there are two large *dwarapalakas* are present. Around the temple there are small temples for Surya, Sapthamathrikas, Ganesa, Subramanya, Jyesta, Chandra, Chandikeswara etc.

THANDAYUTHAPANI TEMPLE, PAZHANI

Location

Name of the Monument Thandayuthapani Temple,
Address Pazhani Hills, Pazhani-624 601
Telephone 04545-242236 / 242467 / 247765

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station 2 KM from the RS.
Distance from the Bus Stand 2 KM from the Bus-stand.
Route 122 KM from Madurai. 64 KM from Kodaikkanal.

Functioning

Timings 5.00 to 8.30 PM
Holidays Nil
Entrance fee Nil
Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges. Allowed with charges. Rs 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument Religious-Living Hindu Temple
Controlling Authority Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department
Chennai - 600 034. Tel : 044-28334811
Executive Officer / Joint Commissioner

Officer-in-charge

History

Period 9th Century AD
Dynasty Chera
Style of Architecture Dravidian architecture



View of the Hill



Gopura of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities

The principal deity is believed to be made of 81 materials including minerals. There are 7 inscriptions in the temple belonging to the Pandhya, Vijayanagar and Udayar period. It is one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya. Winch is available to go to the top of the hillock. Charge is Rs. 10/-

Sculptures

Many sculptures and bronze icons are found in this temple.

THANUMALAYAN TEMPLE, SUCHINDRAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Thanumalayan Temple

Address

Suchindram, Kanyakumari District.

Telephone

04652-241421

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

KM from Nagercoil railway station.

Distance from the Bus Stand

KM from the Nagercoil bus-stand.

Route

It is on the way to Kanyakumari from Nagercoil.

Functioning

Timings

6.00 to 11.30 AM & 4.00 to 8.30 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Photography / videography charges.

Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Hindu – Living temple.

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

Department.

Chennai-600 034. Tel : 044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Suchindram

History

Period

9th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian. This temple is dedicated to Thirumurthy – Vishnu, Siva and Brahma.



View of the Gopuaras and the Tank

Importance

Antiquities

This temple is a repository of art treasures. Inscriptions are found in this temple.

Sculptures

Musical pillars and a huge 18-foot high Hanuman statue are proof of the artistic skill of the time.

THIAGARAJA TEMPLE, THIRUVARUR

Location

Name of the Monument

Thiagaraja Temple

Address

Thiruvavur, Thiruvavur District.

Telephone

04366-242343

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from Thiruvavur RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the Bus-stand

Route

It is 20 KM from Nagapattinam and 65 KM from Poompuhar.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photographic Charges Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

HR&CE, Chennai-600 034.

Tel :044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Thiruvavur.

History

Period

13th to 17th Century AD

Dynasty

Cholas to Nayaks

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Kalyanamantapa of the Temple



Cow and the Dead Calf

Importance

Antiquities

It is noted for its Temple Car. In front of the temple there is a Teppakulam which has boating facilities.

Sculptures

The sculptures in the middle of the sanctuary walls depict Dakshinamurti (South), Vishnu (West), and Brahma (North). The Art Gallery depicting the myths of Manuneethi Chola is very famous.

THIRUBUVANANATHAR TEMPLE, THIRUBUVANAM

Location

Name of the Monument
Address
Telephone

Thirubuvananathar Temple
Thirubuvanam, Sivaganga District.
0435-260760

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

19 KM from Madurai RS.
½ KM from the Thirubuvanam bus-stand.
It is in between Manamadurai and Madurai

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.
Nil
Nil

Photographic charges: Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Religious-Living Hindu Temple
HR&CE Department, Chennai-600 034.
Tel : 044-28334811
Executive Officer, Thirubuvanam.

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

10th Century AD.
Chola
Dravidian



View of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities
Sculptures

It has got three Ganesa sculptures, other than
Thirubuvananathar, Annapoorani, Nandhidevar.
The icons are made of gold.

THIRUVENKATANATHASWAMY TEMPLE, KRISHNAPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Thiruvencatanathaswamy Temple

Address

Krishnapuram, Tirunelveli district.

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

13 KM from Tirunelveli Junction

Distance from the Bus Stand

13 KM from Tirunelveli bus-stand.

Route

It is in between Palayamkottai and Tuticorin

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photographic charges Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Tel : 044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer, Krishnapuram

History

Period

12th Century

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



A Dancing Figure

Importance

Antiquities

It is a Vishnu temple. The principal deity is Thiruvencatanathar.

Sculptures

The life size stone sculptures and intricate work are very famous here.

UMAPATHEESURAR TEMPLE, THAKKOLAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Umapatheesurar Temple

Address

Thakkolam, Arkonam, Vellore district

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

5 KM from the Thakkolam RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Thakkolam bus-stand

Route

From Arkonam to Kanchipuram on the eastern side.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography /
videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the
Commissioner, H.R. & C.E., Chennai - 600 034.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department, Chennai - 600 034.

Tel : 044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive officer

History

Period

12th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian

Importance

Antiquities

Chola inscriptions are found.

Sculptures

Water is coming out of a Nandhi during rainy season. Sculptures of Umapatheesvarar, Umayammai are found. Kosthadevathas are in the niches of the *vimana*.

VARATHARAJAPERUMAL TEMPLE, KANCHIPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Varatharajaperumal Temple
Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu district
PIN 631 503.
04112-269773

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

70 KM from the Chennai Air Port.
3 KM from Kanchipuram RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the bus-stand.

Route

It is in between Chengalpattu and Arkonam

Functioning

Timings

4.00 to 12 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photography: Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Hindu Living Temple

Controlling Authority

Commissioner, HR&CE Department,
Chennai-600 034. Tel : 044-28334811
Assistant Commissioner, Kanchipuram

Officer-in-charge

History

Period

10th Century AD. Extended in 15th C AD.

Dynasty

Chola and Vijayanagar Kings

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



Side View of the Gopura



View of the Temple Tower

Importance

Antiquities

It is massive and impressive edifice. The hundred-pillared hall was erected during the Vijayanagar period. There are fresco type of paintings on the walls of the temple.

Sculptures

The hundred-pillared hall is noted for its exquisite sculptures. The ornamental rings carved out of a single stone in a chain at the four corners are the special features of the hall. Varatharajaperumal, Yoganarasimha, Perundevi, Sakkarathazhvar, Atthi Varadhar are some of the sculptures here.

VAIKUNTA PERUMAL TEMPLE, UTHIRAMERUR

Location

Name of the Monument

Vaikuntaperumal Temple

Address

Uthiramerur, Chengalpattu district - 603 406.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

30 KM from Kanchipuram RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Uthiramerur bus-stand.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the
Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Hindu Temple

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant,

Archaeological Survey of India,

Tel : 04112-22702

Kanchipuram Sub-circle,

Vaikunthaperumal Temple North Mada St.,

Kanchipuram District. Pin: 631 502.

History

Period

10th Century AD.

Dynasty

Chola

Style of Architecture

Dravidian



View of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities

Many inscriptions regarding the village administration are found in the temple.

Sculptures

The stone sculptures are testifying the skill of the Chola artisans.

VAIKUNTA PERUMAL TEMPLE, KANCHIPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Vaikunta Perumal Temple

Address

Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu district
PIN 631 502.

Telephone

04112-22702

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

1 KM from the Kanchipuram RS.

70 KM from the Chennai Air Port.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from the Kanchipuram bus-stand.

Route

It is in between Chengalpattu and Arkonam

Functioning

Timings

6.00 to 12.00 AM & 4.00 to 7.30 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed on permission from the
Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Living Temple

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Kanchipuram

History

Period

7th Century A. D.

Dynasty

Pallava, Nandhivarman Pallavamalla

Style of Architecture

Stone Dravidian architecture.



Gopura and Mantapa



Yuvan Tswang Sculpture

Importance

Antiquities

Numerous inscriptions are found in this temple relating to the wars between the Pallavas and Chalukyas. Traces of paintings on the sculptures are seen in many places.

Sculptures

The presiding deity Lord Vishnu is depicted in sitting, standing and reclining postures. In one of the panels Yuvan Tswang is depicted.



DIRECTORY OF
JAIN TEMPLES

CHANDRA PRABHA TIRTANKARA TEMPLE, VIJAYAMANGALAM

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Chandra Prabha Tirthankara Temple
Vijayamangalam, Perundurai Taluk,
Erode District

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

30 KM from Erode Junction
1 KM from the Vijayamangalam Bus stand
Erode-Perundurai-Kangayam Road

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Sun rise to sun set
Nil
Free
Not allowed. But with permission from
the Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St.
George, Chennai - 600 009.
Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Jain Religious Structural Monument
Archaeological Survey of India
Conservation Assistant, 4/64-A, Sri Nagar
Colony, Narasothipatty, Salem-604 202.
Tel : 0427-2447344

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

7th Century A.D
Gangas, Cholas
Dravidian and Gangara styled vimanas



Chandraprabha Tirtankara Temple



Chandraprabha Tirtankara

Importance

Antiquities

Bronze icons of Adinatha, Ananthanatha, Neminatha and Mahavira are found. Stone sculptures are also found. Paintings too are found. Stone inscriptions are also noticed.

Sculptures

Stone sculptures of the 24 Tirthankaras, Yakshi, Dharmadevi, Kushpanini and 130 embossed stone sculptures along the inner ceiling depicting the life history of Adhinatha are some of the important sculptures in this temple.

JAIN TEMPLE, KALUGUMALAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Jain Temple

Address

Murugan Temple, Kalugumalai, Tirunelveli district.

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from Sankarankoil RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

Very near the Kalugumalai bus-stand.

Route

Functioning

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Jain Temple.

Controlling Authority

Revenue Department.

Officer-in-charge

Tahsildar, Sankarankoil taluk.

History

Period

7th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pandhya.

Style of Architecture

Rock-cut architecture.



A View of the Rock-cut Jain Images

Importance

Antiquities

It was a Jain centre in the earlier days. Pandhyan inscriptions are found.

Sculptures

The sculptures of Neminatha, Parsvanatha, Mahavira, Yaksha, Yakshi are beautiful.

JAIN SCULPTURES AND INSCRIPTIONS, AIVAR MALAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Jain Sculptures and Inscriptions

Address

Aivar Malai, Near Ayyampalayam, Dindigul District 624 601.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

17 KM from Pazhani R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

16 KM from Pazhani bus-stand

Route

It is in the route of Pazhani to Kolumam.

Functioning

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed. Free.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Jain Temple

Controlling Authority

State Department of Archaeology,
Chennai - 600 008 Tel : 044-28190020
Archaeological Officer

Officer-in-charge

History

Period

8th – 9th Century AD.

Dynasty

Pandhya

Style of Architecture

Pandhya style of architecture



Ivar Malai Rock with Titankara Image

Importance

Antiquities

It is also called Panchapandavarmalai. There are inscriptions in Vatteluthu and Tamil.

Sculptures

It is a large cave with sculptures of Jain Tirthankaras. This is the only Jain monument in Dindigul district.

VETTUVAN TEMPLE, KALUGUMALAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Vettuvan Temple

Address

Near Kalugumalai Murugan Temple,
Kalugumalai, Tirunelveli district.

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

1 KM from Kalugumalai RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

Very near the kalugumalai bus-stand.

Route

Near the Murugan Temple.

Functioning

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

with permission

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Jain Temple

Controlling Authority

State Department of Archaeology,
Chennai - 600 008, Tel : 044-28190020
Archaeological Officer, Tirunelveli.

Officer-in-charge

History

Period

8th Century AD.

Dynasty

Early Pandhya.

Style of Architecture

Pandhya rock-cut temple



Vettuvan Temple

Importance

Antiquities

It is otherwise called as 'Nellaiyil Mallai'. The dome of the Jain temple is octagonal in shape.

Sculptures

Some of the sculptures are Yazhi, dancing figures, Dakshinamoorti, Narasimha, Brahma, Nandhi figures, Boothaganas and Tirtankaras.



DIRECTORY OF
**MOSQUES &
DARGAHS**

BIG MOSQUE, P.B.AGRAHARAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Big Mosque

Address

Majeeth Street, P. B. Agraharam,
Erode – 638 005.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

6 KM from the Erode Junction.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the Erode bus-stand.

Route

It is on the Erode Bhavani route.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 AM to 8.30 PM.

Holidays

Nil.

Entrance fee

Nil.

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Yes, with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Muslim – Mosque.

Controlling Authority

Personal Trustee.

Officer-in-charge

Mr. Abdul Khader

History

Period

1927.

Dynasty

Present day. Khaji Md. Meera Saheb

Style of Architecture

Saracenic style with minarets.



Big Mosque, P.B. Agraharam

Importance

Antiquities

There are no antiquities. The minarets are beautiful.

Sculptures

There are no sculptures or inscriptions.

DARGAH, NAGOOR

Location

Name of the Monument

Nagoor Dargah

Address

Nagoor, Nagappattinam district 611 002.

Telephone

04365-270194.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

1 KM from the Nagoor Railway Station

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Nagoor Bus Stand

Route

It is in between Nagapattinam and Karaikkal.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

Timings

5 AM to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious - Muslim - Dargah

Controlling Authority

Wakf Board

Officer-in-charge

Khaji

History

Period

16th Century AD.

Dynasty

Muslim rulers

Style of Architecture

Mughal architecture



External View of the Dargah



Inner View of the Dargah

Importance

Antiquities

It is the burial place of the Islamic personality Hzrath Syed Shahul Hameed.

Sculptures

There are no sculptures but the architecture is very good.

GREEN STONE MOSQUE, ARCOT

Location

Name of the Monument

Green Stone Mosque

Address

Arcot, Vellore district.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

5 KM from Wallajahpet

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from Arcot bus-stand.

Route

It is in between Wallajahpet and Vellore in the Chennai-Bangalore National Highways

Functioning

Timings

Sunrise to Sun-set

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the local Muslim Moulvi.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Muslim-Mosque

Controlling Authority

Wakf Board.

Officer-in-charge

Moulvi

History

Period

17th Century AD.

Dynasty

Arcot Nawabs-Daud Khan.

Style of Architecture

Islamic architecture



View of the Green Stone Mosque



Persian Inscription

Importance

Antiquities

It has got many tombs and inscriptions

Sculptures

There are no sculptures. But the architecture is very good with green stones. It has got Persian inscriptions.

HAZRAT THABLE ALAM BADHUSHA NATHARVALI DARGAH, TRICHY

Location

Name of the Monument

Nazrat Thable Alam Badhusa Natherveli
Durgah

Address

Madurai Road, Thiruchirappalli – 620 008.

Telephone

0431-2700401.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

4 KM from Thiruchirappalli Junction.

Distance from the Bus Stand

4 KM from the Trichy Central bus-stand.

Route

In between Chatram and Central bus
stands.**Functioning**

Timings

5AM to 10 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Photography and videography allowed

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Muslim- Living Durgah.

Controlling Authority

Board of Trustees.

Officer-in-charge

Mr. Jaffer Khan, Executive Trustee.

History

Period

8th Century AD

Dynasty

Early Chola and Naick dynasties.

Style of Architecture

Pallava

*Inner View of the Dargah**Dome of the Dargah***Importance**

Antiquities

The Durgah has architecture similar to the Hindu
architecture.

Sculptures

No sculptures are available.

SHEICK ALLAUDDIN DARGAH, ERODE

Location

Name of the Monument

Sheick Allaiddin Basha Dargah,

Address

Cauvery Bank, Erode – 638 003.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

5 KM from the Erode R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the Erode bus-stand.

Route

It is on the bank of the river Cauvery on the Erode side.

Functioning

Timings

Every day from 6 AM to 8 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Muslim – Dargah.

Controlling Authority

Town Khaji.

Officer-in-charge

Town Khaji.

History

Period

1761 AD

Dynasty

Krishna Raja Udayar.

Style of Architecture

It has the Vijayanagar style of architecture.



View of the Dargah

Importance

Antiquities

The stone inscription tells about donation of 5 "Ma" land to the Dargah by 5 Hindu Officers of Krishnappa Udayar.

Sculptures

It doesn't have any sculpture, but the pillars have the style of the Pallavas.

TIPPU'S MOSQUE, THALAVADI

Location

Name of the Monument

Tippu's Mosque

Address

Thalavadi, Erode district.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

50 KM from the Erode RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM. from Thalavadi bus-stand

Route

It is in between Sathyamangalam and Mysore

Functioning

Timings

6.00 AM to 8.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Muslim-Mosque.

Controlling Authority

Haj

Officer-in-charge

Haj

History

Period

18th Century AD.

Dynasty

Tippu Sultan.

Style of Architecture

Mughal / Indo-Saracenic



Mosque Built by Tippu Sultan

Importance

Antiquities

This mosque is adjacent to a Hindu temple. This is the specialty of the mosque.

Sculptures

The minarets are designed very well in the Indo-Saracenic style.



DIRECTORY OF
CHURCHES

BROUGH CHURCH, ERODE

Location

Name of the Monument

Brough Church

Address

Brough Road, Erode-638 001.

Telephone

0424-2254871

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

1 KM from the Erode Junction.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from the Erode bus-stand.

Route

In between Salem and Coimbatore.

Functioning

Timings

5.00 AM to 9.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photography allowed. No charges

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living church.

Controlling Authority

Coimbatore Diocese

Officer-in-charge

Parish Priest, Brough Church, Erode

Tel : 0424-2254871

History

Period

19th Century

Dynasty

British India

Style of Architecture

Indo-Saracenic Architecture.



External View of the Brough Church

Importance

Antiquities

The Church was constructed out of stone and mortar. The stones were brought from Karur.

Sculptures

The Church has minarets. There is an inscription in the front side "God is One" both in Tamil and Arabic.

CHRIST CHURCH, SALEM

Location

Name of the Monument	Christ Church, Salem
Address	Opposite to Collector's Office, Salem
Telephone	0427-2210043
Accessibility	
Distance from the Railway Station	4 KM from Salem R.S.
Distance from the Bus Stand	3 KM from Salem bus-stand
Route	In between Salem Junction and bus stand.

Functioning

Year of construction	1875 AD.
Timings	Open from 6 AM to 8 PM.
Holidays	No holiday
Entrance fee	Free
Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.	Allowed with permission

Administration

Type of the Monument	Religious-Living Church
Controlling Authority	Coimbatore Diocese
Officer-in-charge	Parish Priest, Christ Church, Salem.
	Tel : 0427-2210043

History

Period	19 th Century AD.
Dynasty	British
Style of Architecture	It was designed by the English architect Robert Chisholin



External View of the Christ Church

Importance

Antiquities	Original stained glass-East wall, the backdrop-Jesus, John and Peter-circular window at the centre.
Sculptures	There are three cemeteries attached to the Church.

CHRISTHUKULA ASHRAM, THIRUPPATHUR

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Christhukula Ashram Church
Christhukula Ashram,
Thiruppathur-635 601
Vellore district.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

3KM from Thiruppathur R.S.
4 KM from the Thiruppathur bus-stand

Functioning

Year of Construction
Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Foundation laid in 1928 and built in 1933
6 AM to 10 PM.
Nil
Nil

Allowed but no charges.

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Religious-Christian-Living Church.
Ashram Trust.

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

Early 20th Century.
British India
Dravidian style. It was the first Church
constructed in the style of a temple.



*Gopura of the Christhukula
Ashram Church*



*Christ with Children
A Wooden Panel in the Door*

Importance

Antiquities

Sculptures

Dr. Savarirayan Jesudasan and Dr. Ernait Batten constructed this Church. Alter with marble plaque with designs. Ornamental wooden doors and pillars. The main door in the *mugamandapam* has carvings depicting Jesus with children. The *gopura* stories have the statues of biblical heroes.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT, MYLAPORE

Location

Name of the Monument

Our Lady of Light Church,

Address

Luz Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai-600 004

Telephone

044-24992568

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

5 KM from Chennai Central R. S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

5 KM from the Parry's bus-stand.

Route

It is on the Luz road

Functioning

Year of Construction

1516 AD.

Timings

6.00 AM to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the Parish Priest.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Church

Controlling Authority

Roman Catholic Church

Officer-in-charge

Parish Priest, Luz Church, Tel : 044-24992568

History

Period

1516 AD

Dynasty

Portuguese

Style of Architecture

Portuguese architecture



View of the Church of Our Lady

Importance

Antiquities

The Altar is decorated with relief work of two nailed hands on a cross surrounded by a rope.

Sculptures

Angels, stars, dove, crown and floral designs are also found. There is a statue of Our Lady of Light placed in the centre of the church. The statue decorated in gold looks excellent.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, MANAPPADU

Location

Name of the Monument

Holy Cross Church

Address

Manappadu, Tuticorin district

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

20 KM from Tiruchendur R. S.

70 KM from Tirunelveli R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

Near the Manappadu bus-stand.

Route

Tiruchendur-Manappadu

Functioning

Year of Construction

1581

Timings

5.00 AM to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Church

Controlling Authority

Roman Catholic Church

Officer-in-charge

Parish Priest

History

Period

1581 AD

Dynasty

Portuguese

Style of Architecture

It is a brick structure with a smicircular dome like ceiling.



Manappadu Church-A View



Church Altar

Importance

Antiquities

The Church is associated with St. Francis Xavier.

Sculptures

Sculptures of Mary, Joseph, Christ etc., are found.

LOURDE'S CHURCH, CHETTUPATTU

Location

Name of the Monument

Lourde's Shrine

Address

Chethupattu, Polur taluk,
Thiruvannamalai District.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

25 KM from Polur

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from Chethupattu bus-stand.

Route

Between Vandavasi and Polur.

Functioning

Year of Declaration

1895

Timings

Sun-rise to sun-set

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Church.

Controlling Authority

Roman Catholic Church

Officer-in-charge

Parish priest.

History

Period

1895 AD.

Dynasty

Constructed by Rev. Fr. J. F. Dharras

Style of Architecture

There are three circular conical towers of height
150 feet. Gothic architecture.



A View of the Church with the Pines

Importance

Antiquities

It has got decorative stained glass in the windows.

Sculpture

Stucco figures of Joseph, Mary, Jesus and Saints
are found.

SAINT LOURDHU'S CHURCH, TRICHIRAPPALLI

Location

Name of the Monument

Address

St. Lourdhu's Church

St. Joseph's College Campus,

Trichy – 620 002.

0431-2721350

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

Distance from the Bus Stand

Route

4 KM from the Trichy R.S.

1 KM from the Chatram bus stand

Near Main Guard Gate.

Functioning

Timings

Holidays

Entrance fee

5.15 AM to 8.00 PM.

Nil

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed for religious and archaeological purposes only.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Controlling Authority

Officer-in-charge

Religious – Christian

St. Joseph's College, Jesuit Management.

Parish Priest.

History

Period

Dynasty

Style of Architecture

1840 AD

French Missionaries.

Similar to the Lourdhu's Church in France. There is a tower with three floors.



External View of the Church



View of the Altar

Importance

Antiquities

The bell is very famous. The windows are fixed with stained glass. Now they have been painted.

Sculptures

The altar is very fine and is decorated with the crucified Christ.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, THIRUCHIRAPPALLI

Location

Name of the Monument

St. John's Church

Address

Rock Fort, Thiruchirappalli – 620 002.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM from the Thiruchirappalli Junction.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the Trichy Central bus-stand.

Route

12 KM from the Thiruchirappalli Airport.

Functioning

Timings

7 .00 AM to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious – Christian – Protestant Church.

Controlling Authority

Thiruchirappalli Diocese.

Officer-in-charge

Parish Priest

History

Period

1812

Dynasty

British

Style of Architecture

British architecture

Importance

Antiquities

This church doors are louvered, which open to convert it into an airy pavilion.

Sculptures

The altar has the antiquities of the time of its construction.

ST. THOMAS CATHEDRAL BASILICA, SANTHOME, CHENNAI

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Santhome Church
Santhome High Road, Santhome,
Chennai-600 004
044-24985455 / 0758

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

4 KM from the Chennai Central R. S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

4 KM from the Parry's bus-stand.

Route

It is in between Parry's Corner and Adyar.

Functioning

Year of Construction

Old Church-1523 AD. The Church was rebuilt in 1606 AD as Cathedral and in 1896 it was made as a basilica. It was restored in 2004 6.00 AM to 8.00 PM.

Timings

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed. But with permission from the Parish Priest.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Church

Controlling Authority

Roman Catholic Church

Officer-in-charge

Parish Priest

History

Period

1896 AD.

Dynasty

British

Style of Architecture

Gothic architecture



External View of the Tower



Stained Glass Decorations in the Altar

Importance

Antiquities

Sculptures

The beautiful stained glass windows at the basilica portray the story of St. Thomas and the central hall has 14 wooden plaques depicting scenes of the last days of Christ. The grave of St. Thomas is inside this church. In the cathedral is a 3 feet high statue of Virgin Mary which is believed to have been brought from Portugal in 1543. The stone sculptures belonging to the old Church are found in the museum located with in the Church campus.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, FORT ST. GEORGE, CHENNAI

Location

Name of the Monument

St. Mary's Church

Address

Fort, Chennai – 600 009.

Telephone

044-2567 2023

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM from the Central Railway Station.

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from the Central Bus-stand.

Route

It is located inside the fort near the beach on the beach road from Parry's Corner to Santhome.

Functioning

Timings

Sun rise to sun set

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25671596

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Church

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India.

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Fort St. George, Chennai-600 009. Tel : 2567 1596

History

Period

1680 AD.

Dynasty

British Period

Style of Architecture

Gothic architecture



View of the Tower and the Church



Internal View of the Church

Importance

Antiquities

The altar painting is by an unknown artist. It is a copy of Raphael's *Last Supper*, now in Vatican, in Rome. The British brought the painting from Pondicherry in 1761. The organ was installed in 1894. Above each of the large open windows there are semicircular of stained glasses.

Sculptures

The Church has many tablets, which are made out of marble.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, VAZHUKAMPARA

Location

Name of the Monument

St. Mary's Church

Address

Vazhukampara, Kanyakumari District.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

12 KM from Nagercoil

Distance from the Bus Stand

It is near the Vazhukampara bus-stand.

Route

Functioning

Timings

6.00 AM to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed. With the permission of the Parish Priest.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Church

Controlling Authority

Roman Catholic Church

Officer-in-charge

Parish Priest.

History

Period

1900 AD.

Dynasty

British

Style of Architecture

Gothic style



Tower of St. Mary's Church



Internal View of the Church

Importance

Antiquities

There is a marvelous five hundred years old Portuguese altar preserved behind the church, which is made out of wood.

Sculptures

The altar is very attractive. Sculptures of Jesus, Joseph, Mary and angels are seen.

VELANKANNI CHURCH, VELANKANNI

Location

Name of the Monument

Velankanni Church

Address

Velankannai, Nagapattinam -611 111.

Telephone

04365-263550 / 263423

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

10 KM from Nagapattinm RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from Velankannai bus-stand

Route

It is along the sea coast.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

Timings

5.00 AM to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Living Church

Controlling Authority

Parish Priest.

Officer-in-charge

Parish Priest.

History

Period

18th Century AD

Dynasty

French

Style of Architecture

Gothic



Front Elevation of the Church

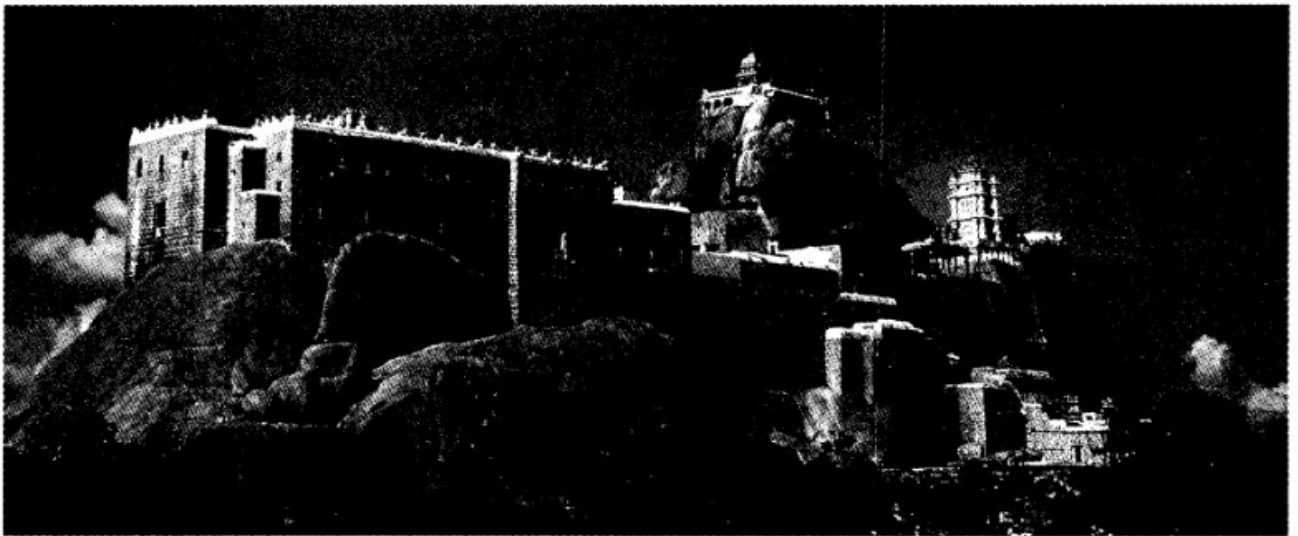
Importance

Antiquities

There is a offerings museum with in the Church campus.

Sculptures

The sculptures of Mary, Jesus are very beautiful.



DIRECTORY OF

FORTS & PALACES

DANISH FORT, TRANQUEBAR

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Danish Fort
Tranquebar, Nagapattianam District.
PIN- 609 313

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

22 KM from Nagoore
1 KM from Tranquebar Bus-stand.
It is in between Nagoore and Sirkazhi.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument
Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee

10.00 AM to 5.00 PM
Fridays
Adult : Re.5/-, Child : Rs. 3/-
Foreigner Adult : Rs. 50/-, Child : Rs. 25/-

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Photographic Charges Rs. 10/-

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Secular-Fort
Department of Archaeology, Chennai - 600 008
Curator, Tranquebar. Tel : 044-28190020

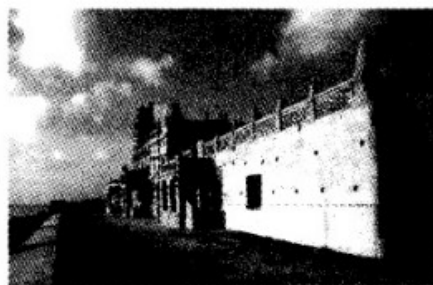
History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

1620 AD.
Danish
Danish Architecture



A Distant View of the Danish Fort



View of the Museum in the Fort

Importance

Antiquities

This fort was constructed by the Danish Captain Ove Gedde in 1620. It houses an Archaeological Museum, which has objects belonging to the Danish period in India such as Painting of the King Christian, copy of the gold plate grant in which Raghunatha Nayak signed, coins issued by the Danish, cannons and other weapons are on display.

Sculptures

An inscription in the Fort reads as follows: The Dans borc built by Ove Gedde Commander in the Royal Danish Navy Roc 1620.

DELHI GATE, ARCOT

Location

Name of the Monument

Delhi Gate

Address

Arcot, Vellore District.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

5 KM from Wallajahpet RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from Arcot bus-stand.

Route

It is on the western bank the river Palar.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the
Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 002. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Fort

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Vellore

Tel : 0416 - 2220693

History

Period

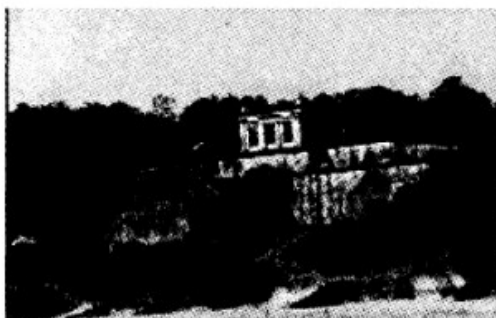
1756 AD.

Dynasty

Arcot Nawab-Daud Khan

Style of Architecture

Mughal and English



A View of the Delhi Gate



A View of the Upper Room in the Gate

Importance

Antiquities

There is a stone inscription near the big door way-
"The gate formed part of the fortification of Arcot
during the memorable defense by Lord Clive in 1751"

Sculptures

Since the capture of this fort led to the capture of
Delhi, it was called as Delhi Gate. Since this gate is
facing Delhi, it is called Delhi Gate.

FORT OF SETHUPATHY, KAMUTHI

Location

Name of the Monument

Fort of Sethupathy

Address

Kamuthi, Ramanathapuram district.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

88 KM from Madurai Junction

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from Kamuthi bus-stand

Route

It is in between Madurai and Kamuthi.

Functioning

Timings

9.30 AM to 6 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Not allowed. But with permission from the Commissioner of Archaeology, Chennai - 600 008. Tel : 044-28190020

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Fort.

Controlling Authority

Commissioner, State Archaeology.

Officer-in-charge

Assistant Director, State Archaeology, Madurai.
Tel : 0432-2338992

History

Period

1725 AD.

Dynasty

Vijayaraghunatha Sethupathy.

Style of Architecture

French architect helped the Sethupathy to build this fort.



Distant view



Closeup view

Importance

Antiquities

It is a circular fort. It has 9 towers. The height of the fort wall is 25.5 feet. The inner diameter of the fort is 292 feet. The entrance to the fort is at the northern side of the fort.

FORT ST. GEORGE, CHENNAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Fort St. George,

Address

Fort, Chennai – 600 009.

Telephone

044-25671596

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM from the Chennai Central Railway Station.

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from the Central bus-stand, Esplanade

Route

It is located near the beach on the beach road from Parry's Corner to Santhome.

Functioning

Timings

9 AM to 6 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges

Allowed with permission from the Superintending

Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular - Fort

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India.

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Fort St. George, Chennai-600 009. Tel : 044-25671596

History

Period

British period.

Dynasty

16th Century AD.

Style of Architecture

It is a mud fort cladded with stones.



External View of the Fort



Inner View of the Fort

Importance

Antiquities

Many heritage buildings are inside the fort. St. Mary's Church is one among them. The Altar painting is very good. The Fort Museum is inside this fort.

Sculptures

The Church has many tablets, which are made out of marble.

FORT, VELLORE

Location

Name of the Monument

Fort,

Address

Fort, Vellore – 632 004.

Telephone

0416-2220 693.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

6 KM from the Katpadi Railway Station.

Distance from the Bus Stand

Opposite the Vellore bus-stand.

Route

It is visible from the bus stand

Functioning

Timings

Sunrise to Sunset

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Photography / videography charges.

with the permission of the Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular – Fort.

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India.

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant, Fort, Vellore-632 004.

Ph: 0416-220 693.

History

Period

13th Century AD.

Dynasty

Late Chola-Vijayanagar- Nayak.

Style of Architecture

The historically famous fort retains the past glory with its ramparts, barlements, turrets, posts, sally gates and with perennial water supply. Double walls fortify it and the main walls are made massive granite blocks laid one over the other without using



A View of the Fort with the Moat

Importance

Antiquities

The pillars of the *Kalyana Mandapa* have been exquisitely carved with different beasts and monsters and gods on horse's back. There are paintings in the ceiling of the *Raja gopura*.

Sculptures

The *dwarapalakas* are very famous. More over relief works in the *kalyana mandapa* are superb.

FORT, NAMAKKAL

Location

Name of the Monument

Namakkal Fort

Address

Namakkal, Namakkal district

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

35 KM from Salem R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Namakkal bus-stand

Route

It is in between Karur and Rasipuram

Functioning

Timings

Sun rise to sun set.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

With the permission of the Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Fort

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India

Officer-in-charge

Consrvation Assistant, Salem

Tel : 0427-2447344

History

Period

15th Century

Dynasty

Style of Architecture



View of the Namakkal Fort

Importance

Antiquities

There are two rock-cut temples dedicated to Narasimhaswamy and Ranganathaswamy respectively.

Sculptures

The sculptures pertaining to the two temples are worth seeing.

GINGEE FORT, GINGEE

Location

Name of the Monument

Address

Telephone

Fort

Gingee Fort, Gingee, Villupuram Dt. 604 202.

04145-222072.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

Distance from the Bus Stand

Route

37 KM from Villupuram RS.

½ KM from the bus-stand.

36 KM from Thiruvannamalai and 28 KM from Tindivanam.

Functioning

Timings

Holidays

Entrance fee

Photography / videography charges.

9.00 AM – 5.00 PM.

Nil

Rs. 2.00/- per head. Every Friday – free entry.

Allowed with permission from the
Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Controlling Authority

Officer-in-charge

Secular - Fort

Archaeological Survey of India.

Conservation Assistant, Gingee Fort,
PIN 604 202. Ph : 04145-222072.

History

Period

Dynasty

13th Century AD.

Chola. The Vijayanagar Nayaks, Marathas, Moghuls, Raja Desingh, Carnatic Nawabs, the French and the British ruled the fort. Rajagiri and Krishnagiri are the two important fortifications here.

Style of Architecture

The fort is running over three hills of huge and steep boulders.



A View of the Hill Fort



Kalyana Mahal

Importance

Antiquities

Seven-storeyed tower of Kalyana Mahal is worth seeing. Paintings are found in the Kalyanamahal.

Sculptures

There are no sculptures, but the paintings are worth seeing.

HILL FORT, DINDIGUL

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Hill Fort
Near Gandhi Market, Dindigul,
Dindigul District. 624 001.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

4 KM from Dindigul R.S.
2 KM from Dindigul bus-stand
It is located near the Gandhi Market.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument
Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

1952
9.00 AM to 5.30 PM.
Nil
Indians : Rs. 2/- Foreigners : Rs. 100/-
with permission from the Superintending of
Archaeologist, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009. Tel : 044-25670396
Photography: Free; Videography: Rs. 25/-

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Secular-Fort
Archaeological Survey of India
Conservation Assistant, Gingee Fort,
Villupuram district. PIN 604 202.
Tel : 04145-22072.

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

1605 AD.
Nayak. Muthukrishna Nayak in 1605 AD.
Nayak style of architecture.



A View of the Dindigul Hill Fort

Importance

Antiquities

The circumference of the fort is 1½ KM. The thickness of the wall is 1 M. It was an important military station from the Nayak up to the British period. In 1755, Hyder Ali occupied the Fort. There are no sculptures. But there are some provisions for cannons.

Sculptures

KATTABOMMAN FORT, PANCHALANKURICHI

Location

Name of the Monument

Kattabomman Fort

Address

Panchalankurichi, Tuticorin district.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

It is 15 KM from the Maniyachi railway station.

Distance from the Bus Stand

155 KM from Madurai. It is 25 KM from

Tuticorin. 3 KM from Ottapidaram.

Route

It is in between Tuticorin and Ottapidaram.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

18th Century AD.

Timings

Sunrise to sunset

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the Director of Archaeology. Tourism, Chennai - 600 002.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Fort.

Controlling Authority

Director of Tourism

Officer-in-charge

Care Taker

History

Period

18th Century AD

Dynasty

Kattabomman.

Style of Architecture

Brick Structure



General View of the Fort

KRISHNAGIRI FORT

Location

Name of the Monument

Krishnagiri Fort

Address

Saigathu Bacha Hills, Krishnagiri

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

45 KM from the Jolarpet Junction

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from the Krishnagiri New Bus stand. Very near to the old bus stand.

Route

Old Pettai.

Functioning

Timings

Sun rise to sun set

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the Commissioner of Archaeology, Chennai - 600 008.

Tel : 044-28190020

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular Fort

Controlling Authority

Commissioner, State Archaeology Department
Chennai - 600 008. Tel : 044-28190020

Officer-in-charge

History

Period

17th Century AD.

Dynasty

Vijayanagar Kings

Style of Architecture

Built out of dressed granite stone blocks.



General View of the Fort



Entrance to the Fort

Importance

Antiquities

Sculptures

There is a *dargah*, which is under worship.

Stone sculptures such as Vishnu, Vinayaka, Sivagana, elephant, tiger, *linga*, *nandhi*, fish, tortoise etc., are depicted around the fort.

MARATHA PALACE, THANJAVUR

Location

Name of the Monument

Maratha Palace

Address

Thanjavur, Thanjavur district.

Telephone

04632-273623

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM from the Thanjavur RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from the old bus-stand.

5 KM from the new bus-stand.

Route

It is with in the Palace complex.

Functioning

Timings

9.00 AM to 5.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

1 Re

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the Commissioner of Archaeology, Chennai-600 008.

Tel : 044-28190020

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Palace

Controlling Authority

Department of Archaeology, Chennai-600 003.

Officer-in-charge

Archaeological Officer, Thanjavur.

History

Period

18th Century AD.

Dynasty

Marathas

Style of Architecture

Nayak architecture



External View of the Palace



Inner View of the Palace

Importance

Antiquities

Paintings of the Nayak Period are seen.

Sculptures

Some sculptures are also found.

RAMALINGAVILASAM, RAMANATHAPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Ramalingavilasam

Address

Ramalingavilasam Palace,
Ramanathapuram - 623501

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

2 KM from the Ramanathapuram R.S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

2 KM from the Ramanathapuram bus-stand.

Route

It is 542 KM from Chennai. 112 KM from Madurai. 95 KM from Karaikudi.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

1978.

Timings

9.00 AM to 1 PM & 2.00 to 5 PM.

Holidays

Sunday and National Holidays.

Entrance fee

Adult : Re. 5/-. Child : Rs. 3/-,
Foreigner : Adult : Rs. 50/- Child : Rs. 25/-

Photography / videography charges

Not allowed. Special permission should be obtained from the Commissioner Archaeology, Chennai - 600 008.
Tel : 044-28190020

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular – Palace – But functions as a museum.

Controlling Authority

Commissioner of Archaeology,
Chennai - 600 008.

Officer-in-charge

Curator, Archaeological Repository,
Ramanathapuram, Asst. Director, Madurai
Tel : 0452-2338992

History

Period

1674-1710 AD.

Dynasty

Raghunatha Sethupathi.

Style of Architecture

Dravidian with pillars.



*View of the External Mantapa
of the Palace*



Inner View of the Palace

Importance

Antiquities

Ornamental pillared structure. It has got wall paintings depicting Ramayana, Bhagavatha scenes.

Sculptures

It has the sculptures of Rama Group in the main Garbagriha like place of the palace. There is a museum inside the palace.

RANI MANGAMMAL AUDIENCE HALL, TRICHY

Location

Name of the Monument

Rani Mangammal Audience Hall

Address

Town Hall, Thiruchirappalli – 620 002.

Telephone

0431-2708809

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM from the Thiruchirappalli Junction

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the Trichy Central bus stand.

Route

It is near the Rock Fort Entrance.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

Taken over by the Department of Museums in 1999.

Timings

9.30 AM to 5.00 PM.

Holidays

Fridays, second Saturdays and National holidays.

Entrance fee

Adult : Rs. 5/- , Child : Rs. 3/-, Student : Rs. 2/-
Foreigners : Rs. 100/-

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Photography: 20/-, Videography: Rs.50/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular – Audience Hall of the Nayak period.

Controlling Authority

Director of Museum, Chennai - 600 008.

Tel : 044-28193238

Officer-in-charge

Curator, Government Museum,
Thiruchirappalli. Tel : 0431-2708809

History

Period

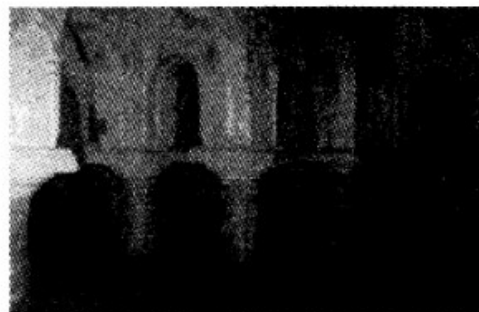
1700 AD.

Dynasty

Nayak

Style of Architecture

Nayak style which is adapted from the Mughal architecture.



Rani Mangammal Town Hall

Importance

Antiquities

The ceiling of the dome is decorated with paintings.

Sculptures

There are no sculptures, but has 33 pillars in the hall connected by arches. This hall has accommodated the Government Museum, Trichy

ROCK FORT, THIRUCHIRAPPALLI

Location

Name of the Monument

Rock Fort

Address

Rock Fort, Thiruchirappalli – 620 002.

Telephone

0431-2704621

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM from the Thiruchirappalli R. S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the Trichy Central bus-stand.

Route

12 KM from the Thiruchirappalli Airport.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

Timings

5.00 to 11.00 AM & 4.00 to 8.00 PM.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Re. 1/-

photography / videography charges.

Photography: Rs. 10/- Videography: Rs.50/-

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular – Fort – But used as a religious place as it has two temples inside.

Controlling Authority

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Chennai - 600 034.

Tel : 044-28334811

Officer-in-charge

Executive Officer.

History

Period

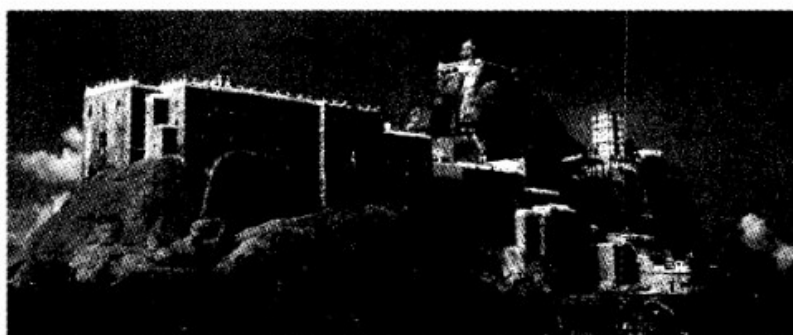
15th Century AD.

Dynasty

Nayak

Style of Architecture

Stone structure based on the Chola architecture.



Rock Fort

Importance

Antiquities

The pillars are decorated with the statues of the Nayaks who dedicated the fort and the temples. This fort has 344 steps hewn out of rock to reach the top. It has got two monuments within the Fort area.

Sculptures

Sculptures of the Nayak period are seen in the heavy pillars of the Fort. Stone elephants, friezes carved with animals and pillars with capitals depicting the lion of the south.

SANGAGIRI FORT, SANKAGIRI

Location

Name of the Monument Sankagiri Fort
 Address Sangagiri, Salem Dt.
 Telephone 04283-244314

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station 2 KM from the Sankagiri Durg R. S.
 Distance from the Bus Stand 3 KM from the Sankagiri bus-stand.
 Route In between Salem and Erode

Functioning

Timings Sun rise to sun set.
 Holidays Nil
 Entrance fee Nil
 Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges. Allowed with permission from the Suprintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

Administration

Type of the Monument Fort
 Controlling Authority Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai Circle, Chennai-600 009. Tel : 044-25670396
 Officer-in-charge Conservation Assistant, Archaeological Survey of India, 4/64-A, Sri Nagar Colony, Narasothipatty, Salem - 604 202. Tel : 0427-2447344

History

Period 16th Century AD.
 Dynasty It was strengthened during the rule of Tippu Sultan (1784-86).
 Style of Architecture British Architcture



View of the Sangagiri Fort

Importance

Antiquities Two Hindu temples are located with in the fort.
 Sculptures Many stone sculptures are found.

SENATE HOUSE, CHENNAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Senate House

Address

North Beach Road, Madras University
Campus, Chennai-600 005.
044-25369506

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM from the Central RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

3 KM from the Esplanade bus-stand

Route

It is in between Parry's and Santhome.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

Timings

It is not open for the public.

Holidays

It can be viewed from outside

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed only outside.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-An audience Hall

Controlling Authority

University of Madras.

Officer-in-charge

Public Relations Officer, Tel : 044-25369506

History

Period

18th Century AD.

Dynasty

Arcot Nawabs

Style of Architecture

Indo-Saracenic



External View of the Senate House

Importance

Antiquities

It has got stained glasses fixed to the arches above
the doors and windows.

Sculptures

There are no sculptures.

THIRUMALAI NAYAK MAHAL, MADURAI

Location

Name of the Monument	Thirumalai Nayak Mahal
Address	Palace Road, Madurai-1.
Telephone	0452-2338992
Accessibility	
Distance from Railway Station	2 KM from the Madurai Junction.
Distance from the Bus Stand	2 KM from Periyar bus-stand.
Route	one KM south-east of the Sri Meenakshi Temple.

Functioning

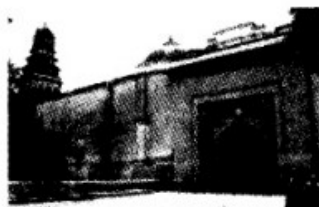
Year of Declaration as Monument	1971
Timings	9.00 AM to 5.00 PM.
Holidays	Nil
Entrance fee	Adult : Rs.5/-, Child : Rs.3/-, Foreigners : Adult : Rs. 50/-, Child : Rs. 25/-
Photography / videography charges.	With permission from the Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Chennai - 600 008. Tel : 044-28190020

Administration

Type of the Monument	State protected monument.
Controlling Authority	Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai - 600 008. Tel : 044-28190020
Officer-in-charge	Assistant Director, Madurai, Tel : 0452-2338992

History

Period	1636 AD.
Dynasty	Nayaks
Style of Architecture	It is in the Indo Saracenic style. The palace is considered to be the largest secular architecture in South India built during Thirumalai Nayak period.



External View



Internal View

Importance

Antiquities

Sculptures

There are 248 massive granite pillars plastered with lime plaster having a perimeter of 5 metres. The ornamentation of the arcade and domes is worked out with stucco. There is no use of iron or wood in this palace. There is no sculpture in the palace. But there is a museum in side the palace. The halls are picturesque. There is sound and light shows daily at 6.45 PM (English) and 8.00 PM (Tamil version).

UDAYAGIRI FORT, UDAYAGIRI

Location

Name of the Monument

Udayagiri Fort

Address

Padmanabhapuram, Kalkulam, kanyakumari district

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

34 KM from Nagercoil R. S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

Near the Udayagiri bus-stand.

Route

Functioning

Timings

Sunrise to sunset

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the Commissioner of Archaeology, Chennai - 600 008. Tel : 044-28190020

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Fort

Controlling Authority

Commissioner of Archaeology, Chennai - 600 008

Officer-in-charge

Archaeological Officer, Tirunelveli

History

Period

1729-758 AD.

Dynasty

Marthanda Varma

Style of Architecture

British Architecture



External View of the Fort



View of the De Lennoy's Tomb

Importance

Antiquities

De Lennoy's, (Marthanda Varma's General) tomb is inside the fort.

VATTAKKOTTAI, PARTIVAPURAM

Location

Name of the Monument

Vattakkottai (Circular Fort)

Address

Parthivapuram, Kanyakumari district.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

15KM from Kanyakumari RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

1 KM from the Vattakkottai bus-stand

Route

Functioning

Timings

Sun rise to sun set

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed with permission from the
Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009, Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Fort

Controlling Authority

Archaeological Survey of India

Officer-in-charge

Conservation Assistant

History

Period

18th Century AD.

Dynasty

Marthanda Varma

Style of Architecture

Built with dressed stone blocks



View of the Fort

Importance

Antiquities

The fort is a tourist attraction.

Sculptures

Sculptures are not found.



DIRECTORY OF MISCELLANEOUS

MONUMENTS

CHARNOCKITE, ST. THOMAS MOUNT

Location

Name of the Monument

Charnockite

Address

National Geological Monument

St. Thomas Mount, Chennai-600 016.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

16 KM from the Central Railway Station.

2 KM from the Guindy Sub-urban railway station

Distance from the Bus Stand

16 KM from the Broadway Bus-stand.

Route

It is located on the way to Chennai-Bangalore

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

1975

Timings

Sun rise to sun set

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed

Administration

Type of the Monument

Geological National monument.

Controlling Authority

Geological Survey of India, jointly with the Catholic Church represented by the Archbishop of Madras

Officer-in-charge

Director, Geological Survey of India,
Chennai - 600 020.

History

Period

Archaian period.

Description

It is a hillock of 76 metres high. Sir Thomas Holland first observed this stone Charnockite in this area in 1893.



St. Thomas Church on the Mount

Importance

Antiquities

There is a Church atop the 76-metre high mount built in 1514 AD the Portuguese. There is a cross, carved in stone and popularly called the bleeding stone.

Sculptures

The cross, carved out of charnockite is still present and is famous among the Christian world.

DOLMENS AND ROCK ART

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Dolmens and Rock Art
Bettada Achemah, Near Konavakkarai.
The Nilgiri's district

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

35 KM from Coonoor railway station.
8 KM from Kothagiri bus-stand.

It is in between Kothagiri and Konavakkarai.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument
Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

1870 AD

Nil

Nil

Nil

Allowed with permission from the
Superintending Archaeologist, Trissur Circle
Trissur, Kerala Tel : 0487-2365616

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority

Stone Monument
Archaeological Survey of India, Government of
India.

Officer-in-charge

Superintending Archaeologist, Trissur Circle
Tel : 0487-2365616

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

1636 AD.

Nayak

Stone architecture.

Importance

Antiquities

The rock art is the antiquity other than the dolmens.

Sculptures

There is no sculpture in the monuments

HERO STONES AND GREAT SATI STONES, THE NILGIRIS

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Hero Stones and Great Sati Stones
Masinakudi, The Nilgiris.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

40 KM from the Ooty railway station.
12 KM from Masinakudi bus stand.
From Masinakudi bus stand to Anakkatti site.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument
Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

1870
Sunrise to sunset
Nil
Nil
Permission from the Superintending
Archaeologist, Trissur, Kerala
Tel : 0487-2365616

Administration
Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Secular monument.
Archaeological Survey of India
Conservation Assitant, Trissur.

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

Megalithic
2nd Century BC to 2nd Century AD.
it is made out of stone which are carved out.

Importance

Antiquities
Sculptures

The stone objects are all antiquities.
There is no sculpture in the site.

KURUSADAI ISLAND

Location

Name of the Monument

Kurusadai Island

Address

Kurusadai, Ramanathapuram Dt.

Telephone

-

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

23 KM from Ramanathapuram R S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

23 KM from Ramanathapuram bus stand.

Route

Functioning

Timings

Sun rise to sun set.

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

It is a Marine Eco Centre.

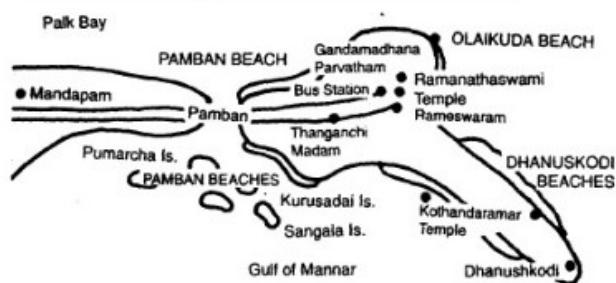
Controlling Authority

Zoological Survey of India

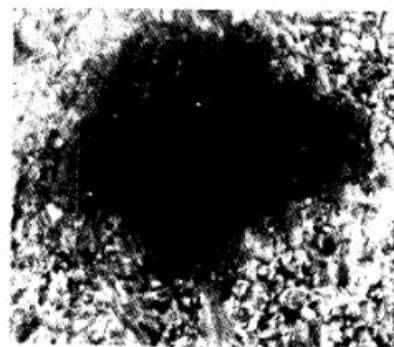
Officer-in-charge

Deputy Director, Chennai

ISLANDS AROUND RAMESWARAM



Location of Kurusadi Island



Coral Reef

Importance

Antiquities

It is paradise for biologists.

MUSICAL INSCRIPTION, ARACHALUR

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Musical Inscription
Arachalur, Nagamalai Hills, Erode taluk,
Erode District-638 101

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

15 KM from the Erode Junction
½ Kilo meter from the Arachalur bus stand.
Erode-Arachalur-Kangayam.

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Sun rise to sun set
Nil
Nil
Allowed with the permission of the
Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological
Survey of India. Fort St. George
Chennai - 600 009

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority

Officer-in-charge

Secular – Musical inscription
Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeologist
Chennai - 600 009
Conservation Assistant, Archaeological Survey of
India, Fort St. George, Salem - 604202
Tel : 0427-2447344

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

Sangam Period, 2nd Century AD.
Sangam King
Rock cut edict

Importance

Antiquities

Brahmi Script on musical notes. This inscription is
as follows: "Ezhuthum Punaruthan Maniya
Vannakkan Devan Sathan".

Sculptures

The Triumbrella, the symbol of the Jain is found.

ROCK-CUT TEMPLE, KUNRAKUDI

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Rock-cut Temple
Kunrakudi, Tiruppathur taluk, Sivagangai district.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

12 KM from Karaikkudi Junction
Near Kunrakkudi Temple
It is in between Tirupattur and Karaikkudi.

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Sunrise to Sunset
Nil
Nil
Photography allowed with permission from the Superintending Archaeologist, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.
Tel : 044-25670396

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Rock-cut Temple
Archaeological Survey of India
Conservation Assistant

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

About 7th Century
Early Pandyas
Pallava Architecture



View of the Temple

Importance

Antiquities

Three Rock-cut caves reveal the beauty of the artists of the earlier period

ROCK-CUT TEMPLE, MAHIBALANPATTI**Location**

Name of the Monument

Rock-cut Temple

Address

Mahibalan Patti, Thirupathur taluk,
Sivagnaga district.

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

25 KM from Karaikudi RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

10 KM from Thirupathur, bus-stand

Route

It is in the route of Tirupathur to Ponnamaravathi.

Functioning

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Free

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Religious-Hindu Temple.

Controlling Authority

Revenue Department.

Officer-in-charge

Tahsildhar, Thirupathur taluk.

History

Period

9th Century AD.

Dynasty

Early Pandhya.

Style of Architecture

Rock-cut temple

Importance

Antiquities

It is the birth place of the Celebrated Tamil Poet
Kanian Boonkunranar.

Sculptures

In the temple there is a rock-cut linga and Ganesa.

ROCK-CUT TEMPLE, PIRANMALAI

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

Rock-cut Temple
Piranmalai, Near Singampunari, Thirupathur taluk,
Sivaganga district.

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

20 KM from Thirupathur.
Near the Piranmalai bus stop.
It is in the Thirupathur to Dindigul route.

Functioning

Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Sunrise to sunset
Nil
Free
Allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Religious-Hindu Temple.
Kunrakudi Thiruvannamalai Adheenam.
-do-

History

Period
Dynasty
Style of Architecture

9th Century AD.
Early Pandhya.
Rock-cut architecture.

Importance

Antiquities

It is a rock-cut temple. It has inscriptions of the
Pandhya period in Tamil.

Sculptures

Uma-Maheswara sculpture of early Pandhya period
is worth seeing

STONE HOUSE, OOTACAMUND**Location**

Name of the monument

Stone House

Address

Ootacamund – 2.

Accessibility

Distance from the nearest

Railway station

2 KM from the Ootacamund railway station.

Distance from the bus stand

1 KM from the Ootacamund bus stand.

Route

Via Charring cross.

Functioning

Timings

Nil

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography/videography
allowed? If so, charges

No charges.

Administration

Type of the monument

Heritage building

Controlling authority

Education Department, Director of Education,
Chennai - 600 006.

Officer in charge

Principal, Government Arts Collge, Ooty.

History

Period

19th Century.

Dynasty

British

Style of architecture

British architecture. It is constructed with granite
stones and lime mortar.**Importance**

Antiquities

This is one of the remains of the British rule in Ooty.

Sculptures

No sculptures are available.

THE NATIONAL FOSSIL PARK, THIRUVAKKARAI

Location

Name of the Monument
Address

The National Fossil Park
Thiruvakkarai, Villupuram District.

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station
Distance from the Bus Stand
Route

It is 155 KM from Chennai
It is in Thiruvakkarai
It is on the National High way 45 via
Tindivanam or from Pondicherry.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument
Timings
Holidays
Entrance fee
Whether photography / videography

1951
Nil
Nil
Free
allowed? If so, charges. Allowed. With permission

Administration

Type of the Monument
Controlling Authority
Officer-in-charge

Fossil Tree Trunk
Geological Survey of India
Director, Geological Survey of India,
Chennai-600 090.

Description

Details of the site

It encompasses an area of about 8 square kilometres. A large number of fossil trees (over 200 numbers) ranging from 3 to 15 metres in length and the maximum recorded being 28.80 metres and up to 5 metre in girth are seen prostrate embedded in what are known as Cuddalore Sandstone of Mio-Pliocene Age (20 million years).



Fossilised Wood

Importance

Antiquities

The fossil portions from Thiruvakkarai are displayed at Fossil Enclosures set up at Children's corner, Guindy Park, Chennai; National History Museum, Kerala; Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad; Cubbon Park, Bangalore; National Museum, New Delhi; Government Museum, Chennai.

THIRUVALLUVAR STATUE, KANYAKUMARI

Location

Name of the Monument

Thiruvalluvar Statue

Address

Kanyakumari, Kanyakumari district

Telephone

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

1 KM from Kanyakumari RS.

Distance from the Bus Stand

½ KM from the Kanyakumari bus stand

Route

It is the southern most corner of India.

Functioning

Year of Declaration as Monument

2000 AD.

Timings

Sun rise to sun set

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Nil

Whether photography / videography allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Statue of a Savant Tamil poet.

Controlling Authority

Information and Publicity Department

Officer-in-charge

Public Relations Officer, Kanyakumari

Tel : 04652-279262

History

Period

21st Century AD.

Dynasty

Modern

Style of Architecture

Dravidian sculptural style



Thiruvalluvar Statue

Importance

Antiquities

It is made of single stone of height 133 feet on the rock adjacent to the Vevekananda Rock.

VALLUVAR KOTTAM, CHENNAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Valluvar Kottam

Address

Kodambakkam High Road, Nungambakkam,
Chennai-34.

Telephone

044-28172177

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

3 KM from the Egmore R.S.

7 KM from the Central R. S.

Distance from the Bus Stand

It is 8 KM from the Broadway Bus stand.

Route

It is on the way to Thiagarayanagar from
Egmore.

Functioning

Year of Construction

1979

Timings

8.00 AM to 6.00 PM

Holidays

Nil

Entrance fee

Re.3/ for adults : Rs. 2/- for children

Whether photography / videography
allowed? If so, charges.

Allowed.

Administration

Type of the Monument

Secular-Memorial for the Savant poet

Thiruvalluvar

Controlling Authority

Information and Publicity Department

Officer-in-charge

Public Relations Officer Tel : 044-28172177

History

Period

1979 AD

Dynasty

Modern

Style of Architecture

It is shaped like the temple car of the Thiruvarur
Temple.



View of the Valluvar Kottam



Temple Car

Importance

Antiquities

The 133 chapters of the *Thirukkural* by the Savant Tamil Poet Thiruvalluvar have been depicted in bas-relief in the front hall corridors of the chariot. The auditorium at Valluvar Kottam is said to be the largest in Asia and can accommodate 4000 people.

Sculptures

A stone chariot, the replica of the temple chariot in Thiruvarur and the stone life size statue of Valluvar are worth seeing.

VICTORIA HALL, CHENNAI

Location

Name of the Monument

Victoria Hall

Address

Government Museum, Egmore,
Chennai - 600008

Telephone

044-28193238

Accessibility

Distance from the Railway Station

1KM from Egmore Railway Station

Distance from the Bus Stand

Children's Hospital Bus Stop

Route

It is in between Egmore Railway Station and
Cooptex Office

Functioning

Timings

9.30 AM to 5.00 PM.

Holidays

Friday and National Holidays

Entrance fee

Rs. 15/- for adults, Rs.10/- for children
Re. 5/- for students, Foreigners : Adult : Rs. 250/-
Children : Rs. 125/-

Whether photography / videography

Rs. 200/- for photography; allowed? If so,
charges. Rs. 500/- for videography

Administration

Type of the Monument

Government-Structural-Monument

Controlling Authority

Government Museum, Chennai

Officer-in-charge

Director of Museums

History

Period

1906 AD.

Dynasty

British-India

Style of Architecture

Indo-Saracenic



National Art Gallery

Importance

Antiquities

It has housed the National Art Gallery paintings, bronz icons, miniature paintings, Tanjore paintings, British paintings, leather paintings, textiles etc.

Sculptures

The selected bronze icons from Tamil nadu such as Nataraja, Rama Group of bronzes are on display. At present closed for refurbishment.

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About the book

The book on Directory of Monuments in Tamilnadu is a handy guide on some of the monuments in Tamilnadu. This book has chapters like introduction on monuments etc., monuments and architecture, protected monuments in Tamilnadu, protecting agencies, conservation of monuments, conclusion, directory of Hindu temples, directory Jain temples, directory of churches, directory of forts and palaces, directory of miscellaneous monuments and bibliography. This book is helpful to those who would like to visit the monuments and enjoy the art, architecture and cultural heritage of them.

About the author

Dr. V. Jeyaraj, born in 1950, is a post graduate in chemistry and history. He joined the department of museums in 1976 after serving a few years in school and college. He headed two district museums in Erode and Vellore as Curator for about 7 years and as Curator for conservation over twenty years. He has to his credit over 120 research publications in conservation, anthropology, archaeology, numismatics, museology etc. He has written over 20 books such as guidebooks, books on conservation and museology. He is the present President of the Indian Association for the Study of Conservation of Cultural Property, New Delhi, Coordinator, Government Museum Manuscript Conservation Centre (NMM), ICOM Member and Life Member of various professional associations like Museums Association of India, South Indian Numismatic Society and Association of British Scholars. He is a member of Board of Studies in the University of Cochin, Kerala. He guides research scholars for the award of Ph. D. Degree from the University of Madras.

